



# Beyond Response: Fostering Resilience

**Annual Report**  
2024-25



START  
Tripura Flood Response - 2024

ত্রিপুরা, ত্রিপুরা

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# keynote by founders

Dear Friends and Well-wishers,

Moving with the times, SEEDS is now listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE), of both the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange. The SSE was envisioned by the Government of India to mitigate the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and to rebuild the livelihoods of those affected. The SSE fosters transparency in fund mobilisation and utilisation and SEEDS hopes to attract ethical investors looking to make a positive impact.

SEEDS' Akshvi (Aapda Kshati Vivaran - Disaster Loss Description) initiative won the D4GX 2024 India Empowerment Challenge. Akshvi is a national climate loss open data platform, that aggregates citizen-led self-assessments of losses with observational data to generate actionable insights for government and non-government aid agencies. This award facilitated SEEDS's ability to reach out to more States to encourage them to support self-reporting during emergencies. Throughout the year, we made steady progress in piloting and scaling the platform.

SEEDS has always believed that understanding science and making it accessible to the vulnerable, saves lives. Over the years, global conversations have underscored

the importance of preempting incidents that can potentially affect climate-vulnerable communities. Early this year, SEEDS initiated an anticipatory alert for the extreme cold in Ladakh, a first such action and among the pioneering in India.

As the plains began to warm up, SEEDS was on the ground with the #UnderTheUmbrella campaign – reaching out to large parts of the National Capital Region (NCR) as well as in Bihar. Our work on the ground has instilled faith among key stakeholders such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA), and other partners in the critical work being done towards the mitigation of heat. We now have a three-year programme in place dedicated towards heat mitigation work within communities.

It is also with continued pride that we report on our now longstanding environmental resilience projects that SEEDS has undertaken in parts of the National Capital Region, the Sundarbans, West Bengal, and the city of Bengaluru. With extreme climate events presenting frequently many of these regions have been facing water stress during the summer and unprecedented flooding during the monsoons. Our projects have been addressing both problems.

Over the past year, our humanitarian action team responded to 11 emergencies across India. With support from START Network, SEEDS was on the ground in 72 hours in Karimganj (Assam), Wayanad (Kerala), South Gomti district (Tripura) and East Mednipur (West Bengal). Aligning with global humanitarian standards we ensured safe spaces for women and children and prioritised the dignity of affected communities. We also stayed back for rehabilitation work both in Tripura and Wayanad. We restored an orphanage Alor Dishari Ghar in South Tripura and in Wayanad, we began work on 100 transitional shelters for tribal communities in the Sulthan Batheri municipality. In Wayanad, the effort is to build the resilience of tribal communities while encouraging the use of locally available and natural materials. Developing local skills in construction techniques and processes using natural materials helps communities cope with their situation as well as check carbon emissions. Rehabilitation work was undertaken in Cachar Assam too.

Our project AI for Resilient Cities, supported by Microsoft, utilises the power of Artificial Intelligence to analyse risks due to disasters in the most vulnerable communities in the country. Through the AI model, we have been able to help underserved communities in Delhi, Gaya, Bhubaneswar, Puri, Bhopal, and Chennai understand, identify, and assess the risks due to heat, floods, and cyclones over the past year. Through collaborations with governments, academia, and local stakeholders, the awareness has increased in efficiency and effectiveness, thereby recognising the usefulness and applicability of AI.

As part of SEEDS' Ankur programme, we handed over the Kuklah Government Primary School to the community. The building combines child-friendly learning spaces with sustainable construction practices and the new campus now has both covered and semi-open areas, giving students the flexibility to study in traditional classrooms or nature-inspired spaces. The key elements of our work here foster a deeper connection with the natural environment.

The learnings so far have motivated us to work towards developing a Resilience Framework, enabling vulnerable communities in strengthening their resilience to climate and disaster impacts.

**Manu Gupta and Anshu Sharma**  
Founders, SEEDS

# SEEDS strategy 2030

## our vision

Transforming the vulnerable into resilient and thriving communities by enabling climate resilience across 225 high-risk districts in India.

## our mission

To protect lives and livelihoods from climate-induced disasters, enabling 300 million high-risk, marginalised citizens to move from mere survival to resilience - through anticipation, survival, recovery, adaptation, and being able to aspire.

# certificates & alliances

*SEEDS is proud to be a member of*

- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)
- Sphere India
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)
- Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)
- Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC), Nepal
- GuideStar India
- START Network
- CAN South Asia
- Santiago Framework
- Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA)
- Social Stock Exchange (SSE), Bombay Stock Exchange
- Social Stock Exchange (SSE) National Stock Exchange
- Catalyst 2030
- Vartaleap Coalition
- Climate Charter

# recognitions

## SEEDS listed on NSE & BSE Social Stock Exchange

In March 2025, SEEDS completed its due diligence to be listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE). Under the regulatory ambit of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the SSE lists social enterprises and voluntary organisations aiming to address the pressing problem of capital. This novel concept seeks to serve the private and non-profit sectors by channelling greater capital to them.

Aiming to mitigate the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic through the SSE, SEEDS hopes to leverage existing social capital to rebuild the livelihoods of those affected by climate-induced disasters and other natural hazards.

Being listed on the SSE will not only help SEEDS raise funds from the public but also enhance our visibility as an organisation that walks alongside affected communities on their journey from anticipating a climate-induced disaster, to surviving and recovering. Our vision is to continue the journey with them building their capacity to adapt and thrive too. We welcome the transparency in fund mobilisation and utilisation that the SSE will ensure, even as investors look to make a positive impact.

## Akshvi wins Data for Good Exchange (D4GX) 2024

SEEDS' flagship initiative, Akshvi, bagged the Data for Good Exchange (D4GX) 2024 India Empowerment Challenge in December 2024. Akshvi is a pioneering national climate loss open data platform, designed to enhance disaster resilience by empowering affected communities to self-report their losses in real time. Supported by India Climate Collaborative and developed with partners like Ashoka's ASPIRE programme, the platform makes vulnerable populations visible, eligible, and capable of receiving timely assistance.

Akshvi works by aggregating citizen-led data with observational data to generate actionable insights for government and non-government aid agencies. Its innovative features include community-level Loss Registers that display collective damages and a household e-wallet. This allows individual families to record their specific losses and track the relief they receive, a feature that also incentivises the crucial process of documentation. The platform is also designed to facilitate tech-enabled compensation transfers, streamlining the entire relief process.

By providing a comprehensive and ground-up view of disaster impacts, Akshvi strengthens community adaptation and ensures that support is targeted and effective. Winning the D4GX challenge will enable SEEDS to expand its outreach, encouraging more states to adopt this self-reporting model to create a more equitable and efficient emergency response system across India.



# SEEDS 2025-26 action plan

SEEDS exists to protect lives and livelihoods from climate-induced disasters, ensuring that communities move from merely surviving crises to thriving through proactive preparedness. Our mission is to enable climate resilience for 300 million of the most marginalised high-risk citizens by 2030, focusing on anticipation, survival, recovery, adaptation, and aspiring in the face of escalating climate risks.

In 2025-2026, SEEDS will aim to become a network orchestrator in climate action to reach 100 districts and one million households. SEEDS will leverage its extensive partnerships across government, private sector, and civil society to deliver solutions that enumerate losses, prevent loss and suffering, build resilience, and enable affected communities to access resources and recover faster.

We have identified the following drivers to achieve targets for the year:

- **Innovation** that is localised and scalable
- Prevention through **nature-based solutions**
- Upholding **human dignity** in disasters
- **Community-driven** resilience
- Leverage **technology** for impact at scale
- Enabling **network effects**

From its experience SEEDS has identified successful approaches to influence our future work facilitating humanitarian response and Climate Action. Our expertise on the ground informs us that it is critical to shift disaster response from reactive relief to resilience-driven approaches, integrating climate risk reduction and adaptation. Strategically keeping our focus on high-risk districts and implementing the anticipate-survive-recover-adapt-aspire framework we are ambitiously seeking to define climate resilience at the community level with a household as the most actionable unit.

Without expanding the organisation we are scaling impact, leveraging technology and partnerships to increase outreach efficiently and effectively to targeted communities. Through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Geographical Information Service (GIS), and Akshvi – the National Loss Platform (NLP) for precision planning we will empower communities to self-report -shifting power to them. It would also help identify and adopt solutions that communities can scale and sustain. The goal is to have communities prioritise resilience-building solutions.

Every disaster - as well as the COVID-19 pandemic - has provided us deep insights that large-scale polycrisis situations will demand systemic preparedness. For us early warning and adaptation strategies are the key steps to empowering local leadership and fostering interconnected networks. Our strengths in NbS, Built Environment and Technology are gradually going to scale nature-based solutions and they have demonstrated that they prioritise safer built environments.

We believe that investing in innovations will drive anticipatory action and forecast-based financing. Piloting innovative financial instruments like parametric insurance, climate resilience bonds, blended finance, outcome-based financing, and pre-loaded e-wallets are pertinent for many vulnerable communities in India. All these efforts are aligned to building a National Disaster Risk Pool, enabling greater participation of private/ social service sectors.

# board of directors



Dr. Vikas Goswami  
**President**



Dr. Barsha Poricha  
**Director**



Dr. Anshu Sharma  
**Secretary**



Dr. Manu Gupta  
**Vice President**



Dr. Lalita Menon Daikoku  
**Member**



Mr. Rajesh Bheda  
**Member**



Mr. Aslam Perwaiz  
**Member**



# disaster response fund

In the chaotic aftermath of disasters, timely relief can mean the difference between survival and despair. Over the past three decades, SEEDS has highlighted at important forums the need for an immediate, action-driven and transparent process to mitigate the increasing number of climate-induced disasters and humanitarian crises.

From the wishes of individual supporters, family and friends, establishing a Disaster Response Fund (DRF) – an immediate funding mechanism to be deployed for rapid response during emergencies, SEEDS has travelled a long way. We acknowledge the support of all our generous donors, too, who have journeyed with us, allowing us to figure out the nuts and bolts of how to establish this in a meaningful and sustainable way.

Having mobilised teams to respond to frequent low and medium disasters in various parts of the country, SEEDS has envisioned speedier deployment given that these incidents have now begun to present themselves more frequently. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, we have launched an anticipatory relief model that flips the script. Instead of waiting for disaster to strike, we prepare in advance.

Backed by several corporate partners SEEDS has designed a pre-positioning model that ensures essential relief kits are stocked in disaster-prone districts before emergencies hit. The result? Life-saving aid, delivered within 96 hours.

The model is active across three high-risk states, Assam, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu which cover six vulnerable districts: Cachar, Hailakandi, North and South 24 Parganas, Virudhunagar, and Thiruvallur. With warehouses in Silchar, Kolkata, and Chennai now fully geared to serve as rapid deployment hubs should a disaster strike.

Each site is stocked with WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and Shelter Kits - carefully curated to meet urgent needs. These kits help prevent disease, restore personal dignity, and offer immediate safety, while also supporting early recovery and reducing the trauma of displacement.

What makes this model unique isn't just the speed. It is the intention. Every step, from kit prepositioning to community outreach and post-distribution reporting, is designed to uphold dignity, promote resilience, and centre the needs of those most affected.

During the year we plan to increase the capacity for anticipatory action nationally in close cooperation with our corporate partners as well as local CSO partners in the climate hot spots.

This initiative reflects SEEDS' commitment under Emergency Relief & Response, delivering swift, thoughtful humanitarian aid that is ready before the storm. Together with key partners we are setting a new benchmark for disaster response in India: proactive, people-first, and purpose-driven. This is a groundbreaking initiative that is laying a pathway for prepositioning centres to be at scale across India.

## our partners

*Deepest gratitude to the local leaders and the affected communities who have been supporting SEEDS throughout the year.*

*Alongside are generous donors such as:*

Callidus Cloud India Private Limited  
The Coca-Cola Foundation  
Ericsson Indian Private Limited  
EY Global Delivery Services India LLP  
H&M Foundation  
Heifer  
Howden Foundation  
IndusInd Bank Limited  
Ingersoll-Rand (India) Limited  
Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited  
Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited  
Myriad USA  
Nike India Technology Centre Private Limited  
NVIDIA Graphics Private Limited  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation  
SBI Foundation  
Siemens Limited  
Start Network  
United Way of Mumbai

And many others



# our impact

*Responded to disaster emergency events that touched*

## 98,134 lives

*Provided relief to the poorest, most affected citizens*

Direct Outreach

### 39,60,844

Indirect Outreach

### 12,67,928

Number of People Trained

### 2,20,893

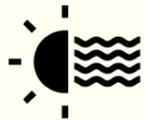
Number of Emergencies Responded to

### 10

Number of Schoolchildren Reached

### 23,072

# 2024-25 a year of disasters



## Heatwaves (April – June)

Widespread across Northern India

A prolonged and intense heatwave gripped large parts of northern India. Temperatures soared to record highs, with some places in Rajasthan and Delhi nearing 50°C. The extreme heat led to a surge in heatstroke cases and fatalities, and also led to severe water shortages and widespread power outages.



## Cyclone Remal (May)

West Bengal, Mizoram, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya

The cyclone made landfall in West Bengal and neighboring Bangladesh bringing torrential rains and strong winds, leading to widespread damage to homes, infrastructure, and agriculture. In the northeastern states, heavy rainfall triggered landslides.



## Cloudbursts & Flash Floods (June – August)

Himachal Pradesh

A devastating monsoon season with cloudbursts and flash floods resulted in deaths and damage to roads, bridges, and other infrastructure, isolating many areas.



## Floods (July)

Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh

Heavy monsoon rains led to severe flooding in multiple states. Assam was particularly hard-hit, with hundreds of thousands of people displaced. The floods inundated villages, destroyed crops, and disrupted essential services across the affected regions.



## Landslides (July)

Karnataka and Kerala

Catastrophic monsoon landslides in July devastated parts of Kerala and Karnataka. Kerala suffered one of the year's deadliest disasters, with over 420 fatalities in the Wayanad region. In neighboring Karnataka, a landslide in Ankola killed nine people.



## Cyclone Fengal (November)

Tamil Nadu

The cyclone made landfall near Puducherry, bringing extremely heavy rainfall to Tamil Nadu's coastal districts resulting in deaths, and significant economic losses.

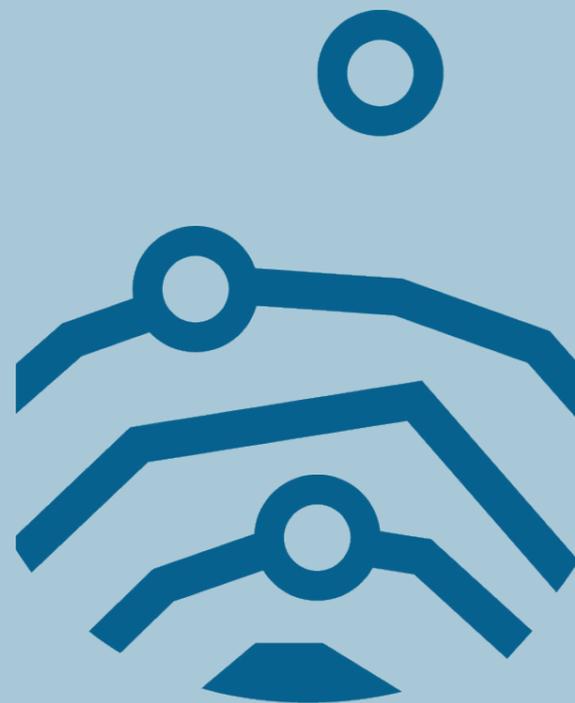
Photograph Credit: SEEDS and Githartha Das



SEEDS situates climate resilience at household level as the smallest unit representing resilience behaviour. Households will be deemed 'more resilient' if they adopt at least three of the following six capabilities:

- Improved **anticipation** of climate-induced hazards
- Better **survivability** during emergencies
- Faster **recovery** from disasters
- Improved **adaptability** to recurrent hazards
- Ability to **aspire** despite adverse climate impacts





# anticipate

Improved anticipation of climate-induced hazards

By improving capacity to anticipate, early actions can be taken to prevent loss of lives. This starts with good assessments of risks and losses.

risk assessment & loss

# Empowering Communities Through Digital Aid

The Akshvi Project, supported by Amazon and implemented by SEEDS, is an initiative to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for disaster management in India. The project's core mission is to empower vulnerable households by enabling them to self-report disaster-related losses through a digital platform. This approach aims to make aid delivery faster, more accurate, and more equitable, ultimately building community resilience.

The project was implemented through a series of pilots across three states. Initial tests in Uttar Pradesh and Assam helped refine multimodal reporting channels like IVRS and WhatsApp, revealing a strong community preference for voice-based systems. In 2024, the most significant pilot was conducted in West Bengal after Cyclone Dana, where the Akshvi platform was directly linked to relief distribution for over 2,000 families. This pilot successfully demonstrated the concept of graded relief, where aid over ₹1,00,00,000 was distributed based on losses self-reported by the affected households. This innovative approach, which included the creation of 1,700 digital disaster wallets, saw community adoption rates soar from 15% to nearly 90%.

Key learnings have emphasised the importance of incentives, simplicity in data collection, and the crucial role of on ground volunteers for awareness and trust building. Despite challenges in integrating with government systems, the project has established over 15 strategic partnerships. Looking ahead, SEEDS plans to scale the Akshvi platform to 25 new districts, further develop the digital wallets with financial instruments like insurance and continue working towards its integration into India's national disaster management framework.



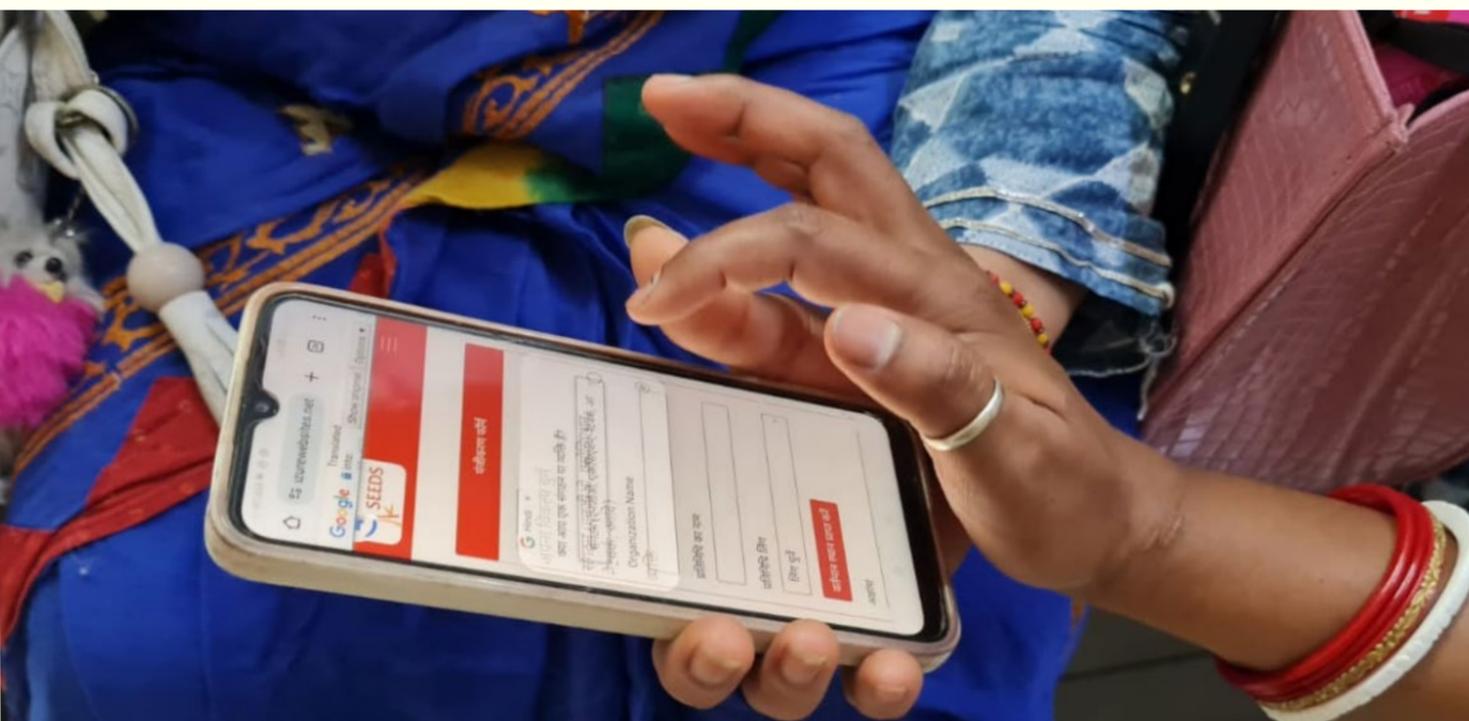
## AI for Resilient Cities

The project supported by Microsoft, addresses a critical gap in India's disaster management system: the lack of specific, actionable risk information at the local level. While national level warnings exist, they often fail to provide households and neighborhoods with the hyperlocal data needed to take timely, informed action against hazards like floods, heatwaves, and earthquakes. This project aims to revolutionise disaster preparedness by using Artificial Intelligence to deliver multi hazard risk assessments at a building level resolution.

During its fourth phase, the project has made significant technical advancements. The AI model's backend has been optimised, achieving greater accuracy even with low resolution satellite imagery and reducing processing time by 30%. A key achievement was the development of a detailed heatwave risk profile for 1,200 sq.km in Delhi National Capital Region (NCR), showcasing the model's capability. The project is now developing combined heatwave and flood risk profiles for cities like Chennai, Delhi, and Bhopal.

This technology is directly linked to on-ground action. The project's Under the Umbrella heatwave campaign in East Delhi translated AI-generated risk data into tangible community outreach, disseminating advisories to 40,000 people and training nearly 400 local health workers.

A core pillar of the initiative is collaboration. SEEDS is formalising partnerships with government bodies like the Greater Chennai Corporation and GIFT City for data-sharing and institutional adoption, alongside engaging universities for knowledge-sharing and training. Despite challenges in navigating administrative processes, the project is paving the way for a new standard in disaster resilience. The future focus is on scaling the model to more cities, strengthening government data integration, and continuing to co-create solutions with communities to ensure technology leads to meaningful, life-saving action.



# Building Resilient Societies

anticipatory & early warning

## Community-Led Innovation

India's disaster response system is still largely centralised, with limited space for local communities to participate in decision-making. As a result, the valuable knowledge and solutions offered by people on the ground often go unrecognised, and humanitarian efforts may not meet local needs effectively. This imbalance is also seen in the humanitarian innovation sector, where communities are rarely placed at the centre of developing and testing solutions.

The Indian Humanitarian Hub (IHH) network by SEEDS, supported by START/Save the Children, aims to change this by putting communities, especially those in disaster-prone and remote areas, at the centre of humanitarian innovation. The initiative supports the adaptation of two existing innovations and the creation of four new, grassroots-led solutions. It focuses on community ownership, women's leadership, use of indigenous knowledge, and sustainable technologies to reduce local risks and build long-term resilience.

Workshops held in January and April 2025 brought together local organisations and community leaders to shape the goals and values. These include fair decision-making, shared accountability, collaboration, and alignment with government systems. Communities are being supported with training, mentorship, and funding to strengthen their ideas and build networks.

The initiative expects to create impact at three levels: communities lead local solutions; organisations adopt more inclusive and transparent approaches; and the broader humanitarian system shifts toward community-driven responses. By changing who holds power in crisis response and investing in local innovation, this aims to move from short-term aid to long-term resilience led by the people who know their challenges best.

Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, this two-year initiative is designed to empower local organisations to better manage and respond to disasters. The core idea is to strengthen the capabilities of those working directly on the ground in vulnerable communities. It is an ongoing strategic effort to enhance the disaster management capabilities of local, grassroots organisations. The programme is rooted in the principle of localisation, aiming to empower the first responders in any crisis - the local entities who possess deep community knowledge.

In the past year, SEEDS partnered with eight local NGOs across Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra after a thorough selection and due diligence process. Together, they co-created a strategy based on each organisation's strengths and needs. A year-long training roadmap was rolled out, covering topics like humanitarian need assessments, climate action planning, and disaster preparedness. Emphasis was also placed on using Akshvi, a digital disaster response platform, and on helping partners develop their own disaster management plans.

Over time, partners took ownership of their growth, joining state-level alliances and being recognised by government bodies for their increased capacities. Many engaged in emergency response efforts using their new skills and began representing local voices in global networks too. Efforts were also made to boost their visibility and funding options, including connecting them to CSR donors and international platforms.

Beyond technical training, the project also worked to raise the visibility and influence of partner organisations. SEEDS held workshops to connect them with important national and global networks like the START Network and the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). As a result, all eight partners joined their State Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs), started taking part in government-NGO coordination, and shared local insights in global spaces. Some partners also got extra support - help with publishing their work, joining international networks, and connecting with CSR donors for funding.

The project has made strong progress. All partners are now drafting their own Disaster Preparedness Plans and have been recognised by state authorities for their growing abilities. While challenges like differences in partner experience and limited funding existed, SEEDS used flexible strategies such as grouping similar partners and helping them explore new funding options.

One key learning is that virtual training alone is not enough. Face-to-face sessions are also important. The project also highlighted the need to support partners not just with technical knowledge but also with skills in running and managing their organisations. This balanced approach is helping build a stronger, more resilient civil society network.

# Improving Resilience of Communities at Risk

SEEDS, supported by the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies Foundation (RNPF), launched a three-year initiative to bolster disaster preparedness and resilience in vulnerable Indian communities. The project employed a technology-driven, multi-stakeholder approach, shifting from reactive relief to proactive resilience-building. Key interventions included the Akshvi - National Loss Platform (NLP), a self-reporting system for real-time disaster impact documentation piloted in Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and West Bengal. The West Bengal pilot engaged 8,500 individuals during Cyclone Dana, achieving a 90% digital wallet adoption for incentivised reporting and enabling rapid disbursement of ₹1 crore in relief. Insights from this pilot are refining NLP for broader national implementation.

Additionally, in Ladakh, SEEDS developed a Cold Wave Anticipatory Action Plan, strengthening early warning systems, pre-arranged financing, and local responder training. Efforts also focused on reducing livestock mortality among the Changpa tribes through baseline assessments, winter preparedness training, temporary shelter construction guidance, and trigger-based aid. A two-acre land restoration project in Himachal Pradesh utilised nature-based solutions like bamboo mesh and native plantations to combat erosion and empower local communities.

The first year saw over 15,000 individuals using NLP, the #UnderTheUmbrella heatwave campaign reaching over 3.5 million in Delhi NCR, and cold-wave anticipatory action supporting Ladakh's Changpa tribes. A land restoration project in Mandi demonstrated nature-based solutions (NbS). Innovation was pursued through Tech4Dev's support for NLP, a financial instruments landscape study, a cold wave early warning system in Leh, and influencer-led storytelling in Ladakh. The project has collaborated with various strategic partners and participated in Godrej's Conscious Collective and leadership programmes to enhance their impact and build alliances for building long-term resilience.



# Disaster Relief Pre-Positioning Model

This three-year project, supported by the Siemens CAT Fund, established an innovative pre-positioning model to ensure timely disaster relief across three high-risk states: Assam, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu. The core objective is to deliver essential aid to disaster affected communities within 96 hours, significantly improving response time and effectiveness. The initiative focuses on addressing the fundamental needs of displaced families by providing crucial hygiene (WASH) and shelter kits, which help restore dignity and reduce the risk of post-disaster epidemics.

The main activity involves strategically stocking relief supplies in warehouses located in Kolkata, Silchar, and Chennai. Each location would house 900 Shelter Kits, containing items like tarpaulins, groundsheets, and mosquito nets, and 900 WASH Kits, with essentials such as soap, sanitary pads, and toothbrushes. When a disaster strikes in the designated districts, these pre-positioned kits could be rapidly mobilised and distributed to the community in need. By providing immediate safety and stability, this proactive model serves as a foundation for recovery, offers psycho-social support, and helps reduce long-term displacement for families impacted by disasters.

## Integrating Sustainability and Preparedness

In January 2025, SEEDS started a strategic partnership with the H&M Foundation to build disaster resilience in India, focusing on vulnerable communities in Assam and Uttar Pradesh. The initiative addresses both immediate disaster relief and long-term recovery while preparing communities to better withstand future climate-related crises.

The multi-phase programme targets groups most at risk, women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, minorities, landless farmers, and indigenous populations, ensuring inclusivity and equity. It emphasises a community led approach, integrating local knowledge with sustainable development practices. Environmental sustainability is a key pillar, with actions focused on biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, and responsible waste management to strengthen ecosystems and reduce vulnerability.

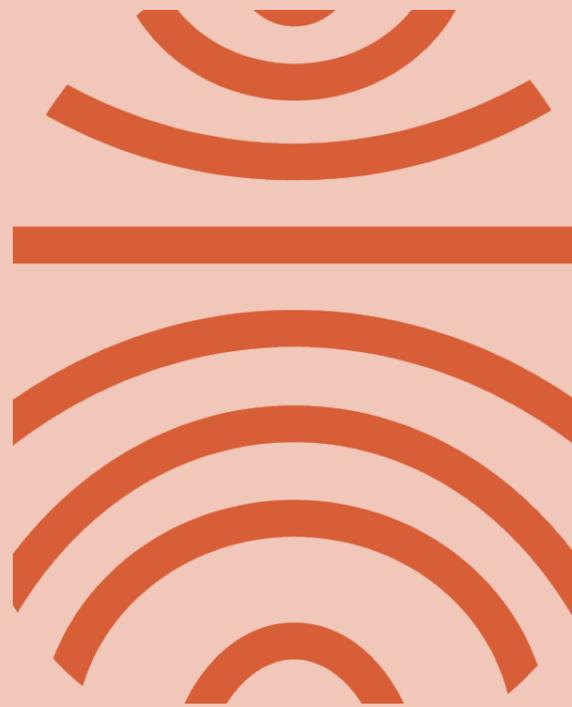
Collaboration with government agencies, private stakeholders, and local communities is central to the programme's success. It seeks to close critical gaps in disaster policies, resource access, and community preparedness by promoting systemic change.

Expected to benefit over 250,000 people in disaster-prone regions, the initiative not only supports recovery but fosters long-term resilience and sustainable development. The goal is to empower communities to shape their own secure and climate resilient futures through inclusive planning and innovative infrastructure.



Photograph Credit: SEEDS and Githartha Das





survive

Relief Assistance to Communities in Distress

We promptly and efficiently  
provided relief assistance  
to communities in distress

floods

# Flood Relief Operations across India

In mid-2024, SEEDS, with crucial support from START/ Save the Children, executed extensive flood relief operations across Assam, Kerala, and West Bengal, providing immediate and life-saving assistance to thousands of vulnerable households. These interventions specifically targeted marginalised populations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and tribal communities, ensuring aid reached those most in need during these catastrophic events.

A core component of SEEDS' response across all three states was the provision of essential aid. This included the widespread distribution of shelter kits to offer immediate refuge, complemented by non-food item (NFI) kits in Kerala to meet basic household needs. To combat the pervasive threat of waterborne diseases in flood-affected areas, hygiene kits were extensively distributed. Ensuring access to safe drinking water was paramount, with efforts focused on cleaning and chlorinating numerous handpumps and community wells, thereby benefiting thousands of individuals. Furthermore, unconditional cash transfers were a key intervention in both Tripura and Kerala, empowering affected families to address their most urgent needs with dignity and flexibility.

Beyond material aid, SEEDS placed a strong emphasis on protection and awareness. In Tripura, hygiene and protection awareness sessions reached over 11,500 people, while similar Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) campaigns in Kerala engaged more than 4,300 individuals. In Assam, a significant focus was placed on child protection, with the establishment of 11 Child-Friendly Spaces that offered vital psychosocial support, play, and learning activities for 392 children. Additionally, 22 awareness sessions on safety and menstrual hygiene were conducted for 687 women and adolescent girls in Assam, promoting health and well-being.

A defining and crucial aspect of this entire flood response strategy was its deeply embedded community led approach. In each affected region, local committees were proactively formed and empowered to manage critical functions, including beneficiary selection, overseeing aid distribution, and handling complaints and grievances. This participatory model was fundamental in ensuring transparency, accountability, and that assistance was genuinely driven by local needs and priorities. By fostering strong local ownership and actively incorporating community feedback, the project not only successfully met urgent survival needs but also significantly contributed to building long-term resilience and restoring dignity within the communities facing the devastating impacts of the floods.

A gracious fund by SVCF supported SEEDS' core disaster funds in this period.





## Restoring Dignity and Resilience: Emergency Relief for Landslide-Affected Families

In July 2024, catastrophic landslides devastated several villages in Meppady, Wayanad district, Kerala. Triggered by intense monsoon rains, the disaster caused over 420 deaths, injured nearly 400 individuals, and left 118 missing. Entire neighbourhoods were destroyed, agricultural land buried, and essential infrastructure disrupted, cutting off roads, power, and water supply. Displacement forced many families into rented accommodations, complicating relief efforts and especially affecting vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women-headed households, and people with disabilities.

In response, SEEDS, in partnership with Ather Energy, initiated an emergency relief effort targeting 110 of the most vulnerable displaced families (504 individuals) in the worst-hit areas of Mundakkai, Chooralmala, and Attamala. The central intervention was the distribution of 'back-to-home' kits comprising nine essential kitchen and household items, including utensils and a pressure cooker. A door-to-door needs assessment using digital tools enabled accurate identification of affected families, with close coordination from Panchayati Raj members ensuring outreach to those who had relocated.

Kalpetta was chosen as the distribution site for its accessibility. A token based, ID verified system ensured transparent and dignified kit distribution, prioritising vulnerable groups. The project highlighted the value of local partnerships, community trust, and digital tools in humanitarian response. Beneficiaries also acknowledged the targeted and transparent approach.

While the relief provided immediate support, testimonials underscored the ongoing need for livelihood recovery. The intervention stands as a model of effective, community-rooted disaster response that centres the most vulnerable while laying the groundwork for longer-term rehabilitation.



## First Step Towards Recovery: Distributing Relief Kits

In response to a series of catastrophic natural disasters across India in 2024, SEEDS, with support from DE Shaw & Co., launched a coordinated emergency relief initiative. The project targeted the most vulnerable families affected by devastating landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, and Uttarakhand, as well as severe flooding in Andhra Pradesh. The primary objective was to provide immediate, life-saving support to displaced communities struggling for survival.

The core of the intervention was the distribution of comprehensive 'back-to-home' kits to 323 families across the three states. Each kit contained 26 essential items for shelter, hygiene, and daily household needs, including kitchenware, bedding, a solar lantern, and sanitation supplies. To ensure aid reached those most in need, a meticulous identification process was followed. SEEDS conducted door-to-door surveys and collaborated closely with local authorities, Panchayats, and partner NGOs to verify and prioritise beneficiaries, with a special focus on women headed households, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and marginalised tribal communities. For families who had lost everything, the timely delivery of these kits was crucial.

Despite challenges like difficult terrain and tracking displaced populations, the project successfully delivered essential aid, underscoring the vital importance of strong local partnerships in executing effective and compassionate disaster response.



cyclones

## From Relief to Resilience: Cyclone Dana

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Dana in West Bengal in October, SEEDS launched a rapid relief and recovery operation in the hardest-hit districts of South 24 Parganas and East Medinipur. The project provided critical, life-saving assistance to communities grappling with the aftermath of the storm, which displaced over 216,000 people.

Supported by START/Save the Children, the comprehensive response included distributing 1,000 shelter kits and 2,000 hygiene kits, providing unconditional cash transfers to 125 of the most vulnerable families, and restoring safe drinking water for over 2,200 people by repairing and chlorinating 40 handpumps. Hygiene promotion sessions reached more than 13,000 individuals to prevent disease outbreaks.

A cornerstone of the project was its deeply community-led approach. SEEDS facilitated the formation of local village committees for beneficiary selection, relief distribution, and grievance redressal. This ensured the response was transparent, accountable, and aligned with the actual needs of the affected population.

During the emergency response SEEDS innovatively utilised Akshvi, a digital platform that empowered households to self-report their losses in real-time. This data-driven tool enabled a swift and evidence-based response, ensuring aid was targeted effectively. By combining immediate relief with community empowerment and technology, the project not only addressed urgent needs but also fostered local ownership and strengthened resilience against future disasters.





heat

## Strengthening Resilience against Heatwaves

India is facing a growing climate crisis, with heatwaves becoming more frequent, intense, and deadly. In 2024, the country recorded 536 heatwave days, the highest in 14 years, with Delhi reaching an unprecedented 52.9 degree Celsius. Forecasts for 2025 predicted similarly extreme temperatures, with large parts of the country expected to face dangerously hot and humid conditions. In informal settlements, poorly ventilated homes trap heat, making living conditions unsafe and unbearable.

To address this, SEEDS has been working over the past two years to support heat-vulnerable communities. In 2023, interventions in East Delhi's Kishan Kunj included thermal insulation, community awareness campaigns, and access to water stations. These low cost, locally adapted strategies empowered residents to better cope with extreme heat.

In response to the growing threat of heatwaves in Delhi NCR, fueled by rapid urbanisation, climate change, and the loss of green spaces, SEEDS launched the 'Under the Umbrella' campaign. Supported by Myriad USA, the initiative aimed to strengthen community resilience and reduce heat-related risks.

With temperatures often exceeding 45 degrees Celsius and a significant Urban Heat Island effect, vulnerable populations, especially in low-income settlements, face increased health threats. The campaign, implemented across 87 locations in Delhi, Noida, Faridabad, and Gurugram, focused on mass awareness, healthcare support, access to water, risk assessment, and behaviour change.

A robust mass awareness campaign reached over 44 lakh people through digital platforms, door-to-door outreach, counselling sessions, and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials. With the support of ASHA workers, community volunteers, and local organisations, residents were educated on heat stress symptoms and preventive measures. Health camps in high-risk clusters screened 847 people and provided treatment and oral rehydration.

To address water scarcity, nine Shibirs camps and four temporary Sheetal Pay Jal (cold water stations) were set up, benefiting over 10,750 individuals, especially daily wage workers and commuters. Risk assessments, covering 46,272 households, identified key vulnerabilities and informed targeted interventions for over 42,000 at-risk families. The campaign also revitalised traditional practices like matka water sharing, distributed over 10,000 IEC pamphlets and 100 posters, and launched public service announcements via speakers and social media.

Despite challenges such as behavioural resistance, limited resources, and poor internet access in certain areas, the campaign demonstrated the value of early community engagement, blending traditional and digital methods, and strong multi-stakeholder collaboration. The initiative directly reached 8.87 lakh people and indirectly impacted over 35 lakhs, making a total outreach of more than 44 lakh individuals. Post-campaign evaluations showed increased adoption of protective behaviours: 35% of participants used umbrellas or head coverings, while 25% focused on staying hydrated, signalling enhanced resilience to extreme heat.

In 2025, with support from the HOWDEN Foundation, SEEDS scaled these efforts through a dedicated initiative in Sultanpuri, Shalimar Bagh, and Shahdab Dairy, East Delhi. The project focuses on implementing nature-based, sustainable insulation solutions using materials like repurposed jute bags, bamboo mats, and green creepers to regulate indoor temperatures. These interventions are tailored to different housing types in informal settlements - from dense, indoor homes to open, street-facing structures.

Over two years, the project plans to insulate 1,450 homes, with 600 already completed, providing immediate relief. Community volunteers are being trained to support implementation and ensure ownership. Impact assessments will inform future action, to create a scalable, climate-resilient housing model. The project aims to drive long-term change and enhance heat resilience in India's most vulnerable communities.



## Developing a Comprehensive Heat Mitigation Strategy

From explorations in the NCR, SEEDS has ventured into Central India – where temperatures soar by early March. Supported in this endeavour by the HT Parekh Foundation, a baseline assessment was designed to map heat vulnerability across the city. The core objective is to create a detailed heat vulnerability index by identifying high-risk communities and analysing temperature patterns, housing typologies, and public health infrastructure readiness.

Key activities included conducting community-level surveys, collecting data on heat-related illnesses, and mapping emergency response routes to identify gaps. While building a long-term strategy, the initiative also identified immediate community support measures. This involves collaborating with local health centres to develop and disseminate public health advisories on heat risks and distributing essential cooling kits, including items like temperature-controlled water bottles and umbrellas, to the most vulnerable populations. The findings from this assessment will produce a comprehensive vulnerability map for Bhopal, providing data-driven recommendations for future interventions like the development of urban cooling strategies and micro-climatic zones.

## The Search for Potable Water Management and Hygiene in a Warming World

Access to water and sanitation remains a critical challenge in Indian cities, especially in informal settlements and slums. During the harsh summers this is further exacerbated. To address this, SEEDS launched the Sustainable Urban Resilience and Governance Initiative project supported by Coca Cola. The programme focused on improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems in vulnerable urban communities in Delhi, Varanasi, and Bhubaneswar, while also building resilience against climate change impacts such as heatwaves.

Key interventions included identifying high-risk slums through baseline studies, improving household and community water storage infrastructure, promoting safe water handling practices, and upgrading water services in schools and health institutions. Approximately 1,500 vulnerable families are targeted for water tank support, and 25,000 people will be reached through awareness campaigns.

The initiative also involved extensive engagement with local authorities like the Delhi Jal Board, WATCO, and municipal bodies, to obtain permissions for infrastructure work and ensure smooth implementation. Community mobilisers were recruited and trained in each city to lead on ground outreach using IEC materials like pamphlets and flashcards, including modules on heatwave prevention and water safety.

Going forward, the programme will focus on completing the household identification for infrastructure support, expanding the heatwave awareness campaign, and strengthening WASH committees to ensure long-term community participation and sustainability. The initiative represents a comprehensive, community-led approach to improving WASH access and climate resilience in India's most vulnerable urban areas.





**recover**

Faster Recovery from Disasters

Accelerating recovery  
through resilient  
infrastructure and  
livelihoods



## From Relief to Resilience: A Unified Humanitarian Project

In response to a series of devastating natural disasters across India in 2024, SEEDS, with support from Kotak, launched a multi-pronged humanitarian initiative to restore safe living and learning environments for vulnerable communities. The project delivered tailored interventions across three states, addressing the unique impacts of Cyclone Dana in Odisha, severe flooding in Tripura, and catastrophic landslides in Uttarakhand. The overarching goal was to provide immediate relief while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery and resilience.

In Bhadrak, Odisha, the project focused on the aftermath of Cyclone Dana, which left thousands of families exposed and without necessities. Through a meticulous community-based assessment process involving local leaders and household surveys, SEEDS identified 405 of the most vulnerable families for immediate support. This included individuals like Purnima Devi, a blind woman living alone, and other households headed by the elderly, persons with disabilities, or single parents. The distribution of comprehensive shelter and hygiene kits provided essential relief to 1,892 people, offering them safety, dignity, and the means to manage their daily survival in the wake of the storm.

The initiative placed a strong emphasis on restoring safe spaces for children. In Tripura, where floods had severely damaged the Alor Dishari Ghar orphanage, the project undertook extensive repair and reconstruction. Work included rebuilding damaged walls in the kitchen and toilets, repainting dormitories, and constructing a new dormitory to safely accommodate the 50 resident children. The fully refurbished and improved facility was successfully handed over in March 2025.

Similarly, in Tingad, Uttarakhand, where landslides destroyed two schools and forced 60 students to study in a temple, the project is constructing a new transitional school. After securing donated land and necessary permissions, construction began on a safe learning center equipped with proper sanitation and clean water facilities.

Across all three interventions, the project navigated significant challenges, including administrative delays and difficult terrain. Key learnings underscored the importance of early engagement with local authorities, community verified data to ensure aid reaches the vulnerable, and clear communication channels. By tailoring its response to the specific needs of each crisis, this initiative successfully restored critical infrastructure, provided essential relief, and brought hope and stability back to thousands of disaster-affected people, with a special focus on ensuring the well-being and continued education of children.



# Fostering Educational Equity: Distributing School Kits

To address the challenge of educational disparity in India, where students from marginalised communities often lack basic school supplies, SEEDS partnered with Avantor on a targeted CSR initiative. Continuing from last year, the project aimed to bridge this resource gap by providing essential amenities to students in Selaqui, Dehradun (Uttarakhand), and Ankleshwar, Gujarat, thereby fostering a more inclusive and effective learning environment.

Implementation began with a needs assessment conducted in collaboration with school administrations to identify the specific requirements of students in each location. Initially planned for four schools, the project's scope was efficiently expanded to six schools after strategic budgeting and coordination with suppliers. This allowed the initiative to maximise its impact, reaching a total of 1,856 students.

Support was tailored to the unique needs of each region. In Dehradun, 768 students received comprehensive stationery kits including notebooks, pencils, school bags, and water bottles. In Ankleshwar, the focus was on promoting equality and confidence, with 1,088 students receiving new school uniforms and shoes.

Successful distribution events were held at all schools, attended by senior leadership from Avantor, who reaffirmed their commitment to the communities. By providing these fundamental resources, the project has not only equipped students with the tools they need to thrive but has also reduced the financial burden on their families, helping to lower dropout rates. The initiative stands as a successful model of corporate non-profit partnership, delivering tangible positive change and building long-term relationships to support education.





## Rebuilding Homes, Restoring Dignity

Over the years SEEDS has stayed back in disaster hit regions serving communities. In the aftermath of devastating floods and landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, many tribal families were left in unsafe, makeshift shelters that offered little protection. To address this, SEEDS, with support from UWM, launched a programme to provide safe, dignified, and sustainable housing for 100 of the most vulnerable families, predominantly from the Paniya tribe. A detailed household survey was first conducted across seven panchayats to identify beneficiaries based on the severity of impact and urgency of need.

The shelter design was a deeply collaborative process, emphasising sustainable, locally sourced materials. Community consultations were central, revealing an urgent need for attached toilets to ensure safety from wild animals, a feature integrated into the final design. After building and testing two prototypes with community input, bamboo was selected as the primary construction material due to its local availability and the community's familiarity with it. The final design features a bamboo frame structure with traditional wattle and daub walls, providing a flexible living space for dignified housing.

This initiative was more than just a construction project; it was a capacity building effort. By involving local workers in building prototypes, the project transferred valuable skills in creating disaster-resilient structures. With materials for all 100 shelters now procured and construction underway, the programme is not only rebuilding homes but also empowering communities with the knowledge to maintain and replicate these sustainable building methods, fostering long-term resilience, safety, and stability for the tribal communities of Wayanad.

## Rebuilding Education: A Rapid Response in Wayanad

Education is one of the hardest hit and often overlooked impacts of disaster. Following the catastrophic landslides in Wayanad, Kerala, in July 2024, two local schools were destroyed, displacing over 665 students. The government relocated them to a nearby high school and a panchayat community hall, but these facilities lacked the capacity and resources to accommodate the sudden influx. SEEDS, with support from Callidus, launched an emergency response programme to rapidly refurbish these temporary locations into safe and functional learning environments.

The intervention focused on practical and essential upgrades. At the Government High School, Meppady, eight new classrooms were created using removable wooden partitions, and kitchen and toilet facilities were significantly expanded to cater for an additional 600 students. At the Panchayat Community Hall, plywood partitions were installed to create five distinct classrooms for the younger primary school children. Both sites, parts of which had been used as morgues during the crisis, were thoroughly cleaned and repainted to create a positive atmosphere for the children.

Safety was paramount, with new handrails and security grills installed in accident-prone areas. In addition to the structural work, SEEDS provided essential furniture, whiteboards, and learning materials. Despite a tight two-week deadline, the project was successfully completed and praised by school staff for its high standards of quality. While the classroom partitions are temporary, the upgraded kitchens, toilets, and safety features will permanently enhance the school and community hall, leaving a lasting benefit for the community long after the displaced students have moved to new, permanent schools.



# Rebuilding Lives after the Flood in Cachar

Devastating floods swept through Assam, displacing over 14,500 people and causing widespread destruction in 2024. Cachar district was among the worst-hit areas, with communities facing food and drinking water shortages, damaged infrastructure, and ongoing hardship. In response, SEEDS launched an emergency relief and recovery project under its Aashray India Flood Response to support the most vulnerable populations in Cachar.

The intervention's initial focus, supported by CDP, was on restoring access to safe water and building local capacity. In the current phase, SEEDS is focusing on maintaining and improving the functionality of water systems, particularly the Terra Filter units that were installed to ensure clean drinking water.

Key activities included regular maintenance of Terra Filters, deep boring to improve groundwater access, installation of new handpumps in low-resource areas, and connecting motors to filter tanks for automated water flow. These efforts aim to reduce breakdowns, ensure reliability, and provide consistent access to safe drinking water. Challenges that ranged from technical to collaboration hurdles were also overcome. Deep boring operations were delayed due to underground rock layers, motors were stolen from two sites, and a lack of cooperation from some local communities hindered progress.

Looking ahead, the project plans to review the contractor's work to ensure quality, repaint Terra Filters with awareness messages in Bengali to encourage proper use, and gather community feedback to improve services. The project represents a move from short-term relief to long-term resilience by embedding disaster preparedness and community ownership into recovery efforts.



# Redeveloping a Government Primary School in Mandi

In August 2023, prolonged rainfall completely washed away the Government Primary School Kuklah in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, leaving 35 students and five staff without classrooms, toilets, or a kitchen. For ten days, education was disrupted until the community arranged temporary classes in a village temple, an inadequate learning environment.

SEEDS intervened under their Emergency Response and Relief pillar, assessing the damage and collaborating with the School Management Committee and local community. Recognising the urgent need, the project engaged with district officials and secured approval from PWC India Foundation for the school's redevelopment. Located in a remote rural area, the original school was established in 1998 by the community.

The reconstruction focused on creating child-friendly, sustainable learning spaces, including covered and semi-open areas, and aimed to benefit 53 students. A key design element was a shallow dome-shaped roof using brick instead of steel or concrete, reducing the carbon footprint, construction time, and costs. The building was also structurally engineered for safety in the hazard-prone area. Following land transfer approvals and the hiring of an architect, engineers, and a contractor, construction commenced in September 2024 and was completed by December 2024. Toilets were added by January 2025. Challenges included land transfer delays due to elections, groundwork delays from rain and terrain, limited access to necessities due to remoteness, and minor design modifications based on community input. The way forward involves advising the SMC on building maintenance and developing a School Disaster Management Plan.



Photograph Credit: Siddharth Behl



## Empowering Health, Building Resilience

In the aftermath of the 2023 floods that devastated communities along the Yamuna and Hindon rivers in Noida, SEEDS supported by S&P Global Foundation, launched a targeted initiative to address the critical, yet often overlooked, issue of menstrual health and hygiene in disaster-affected areas. The project aimed to empower women in Noida's Sectors 134 and 135 with essential knowledge on personal hygiene and disaster risk reduction, fostering long term health and resilience.

The intervention began with a baseline survey of over 250 women to understand their current hygiene practices and challenges. Based on these findings, SEEDS organised five community meetings to mobilise women and identify local leaders, creating a foundation for collective action. The core of the project was a series of two dedicated health and hygiene workshops for 200 women. These sessions were tailored for different age groups, providing practical knowledge on menstrual hygiene management, especially in post-flood conditions. To address immediate needs, 200 hygiene kits containing reusable pads, soap, and other essentials were distributed, complemented by an awareness session on their proper use.

The project's impact is best reflected in the voices of the participants. One woman, Neelam Verma, shared her experience, stating, "the team educated me about... the importance of cleanliness during menstruation, which I didn't know earlier". She committed to implementing these practices and sharing the knowledge with her friends and family, highlighting the initiative's success in creating a ripple effect of awareness.

Despite challenges in reaching a geographically dispersed community, the project successfully delivered vital education and resources. Future plans include distributing more educational materials and conducting specific training on disaster preparedness, building upon the trust and awareness established.



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We helped improve the adaptability of communities facing the threat of natural hazards using nature-based solutions and the conservation of natural environments.

# Reviving History: Rejuvenating the Iconic Hauz-i-Shamsi Water Tank

The Hauz-i-Shamsi, is an ancient water reservoir in Delhi's Mehrauli region, constructed in 1230 CE. It once served as a significant pilgrimage site and a vital source of fresh water, supporting local life and the surrounding environment. Over time, the historic site has suffered decline due to habitat loss, encroachment, and waste dumping. Invasive plant species have further degraded the area, affecting water flow and groundwater recharge. Recognising the critical state of Shamsi Talab, a comprehensive renovation project was initiated through collaborative efforts, guided by conservation principles.

This rejuvenation initiative, continuing from 2021, spearheaded by SEEDS and supported by IndusInd Bank, employed a nature-based approach with two primary models: a Constructed Wetland System (CWS) and Floating Bio-Islands. The CWS uses vegetation and soil to treat contaminated water, significantly reducing pollutants. The Floating Bio-Islands mimic natural floating vegetation to improve water quality. Both models adhered to Delhi Jal Board standards, including site preparation, waste removal, fencing, water recharge provisions, and landscaping for public use.

The intervention included short-term actions like cleaning and invasive species removal, alongside long-term strategies such as establishing a multi-stakeholder management board and applying the Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) framework. A key focus was the revival of the lake ecosystem through Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), including floating bio-islands, aerators, and the introduction of specific fish species for algae and mosquito control.

Despite challenges like approval delays and construction schedule adjustments, the restoration efforts yielded positive impacts. Hydrological assessments showed improved water quality, and on-ground observations confirmed cleaner water, and a return of bird species. The local community also re-engaged with the revitalised space. Long-term sustainability is being ensured through daily maintenance by local custodians and the active monitoring of the 'Pride of Shamsi' committee comprised of the local residents, with ongoing support from government stakeholders. These efforts have progressively enhanced the biodiversity in and around the lake.



# Sundarbans Resilience Initiative: A Collaborative Model for a Sustainable Future

In response to the severe climate threats like cyclones, flooding, river salination, and soil erosion faced by the Sundarbans, a collaborative initiative was launched. Initially supported by NVIDIA, the initiative has been further supported by EY Global and Ericsson. The project addresses critical issues of land loss, soil salinity, and livelihood disruption caused by frequent cyclones. Using a community driven, nature-based approach validated by technical methods like GIS mapping and soil testing, the initiative successfully combines ecological restoration with community empowerment.

The project's achievements have already surpassed initial targets. Over 1,20,000 mangrove saplings were planted, restoring a vital natural barrier against storm surges and coastal erosion. More than 4,000 square metres of vulnerable streambanks were stabilised using vetiver grass, protecting the community land. This environmental restoration was directly linked to enhancing local livelihoods. Ten community ponds were rejuvenated and integrated with sustainable fish farming, while organic kitchen gardens were also developed, improving food security and providing new income streams for over 6,500 households.

A core component of the project was building local capacity. Over 430 community members were trained in disaster preparedness, including first aid and search and rescue, leading to the formation of local emergency task forces. Women led Self Help Groups (SHGs) were central to the project, receiving skill training in sustainable enterprises like vetiver craft and mangrove nursery management.

The project's success is best told through the voices of the community members themselves, who have been transformed into advocates and leaders. A sense of pride has taken root, with young volunteers like Subrata Kumar feeling it is "essential for the safety and future of our village" to participate in protecting their land from erosion.

This dedication spans all ages. 67-year-old Bharavi Mondal found a "new sense of purpose," rallying her neighbours with the belief that "it's never too late to contribute" after learning how vetiver grass could save their land. Their efforts were guided by deep local expertise. Basudeb Das, a veteran labourer, was able to contribute effectively, confirming that vetiver has proven to be a "very effective solution".

By intertwining environmental restoration with economic opportunity and disaster preparedness, this powerful collaboration has created a sustainable and scalable model for climate adaptation, empowering local communities to protect both their environment and their future.

# Strengthening Coastal Communities in the Sundarbans

A large-scale environmental restoration project has been launched in the Canning Sub-division of the Sundarbans to combat coastal risks like erosion and salinisation. The initiative by SEEDS, supported by SBI Foundation, aims to restore 900,000 mangroves over 900,000 square metres, protect 300,000 square metres of riverbanks with natural mats, and rejuvenate 15 ponds to enhance water security. The project intends to directly benefit 600,000 people, with a strong focus on empowering women through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and improving community resilience.

During the initial reporting period, the project successfully completed its foundational phase. All necessary official permissions were secured from the Sub-Divisional Officer and local government bodies, including Gram Panchayat Pradhans, ensuring strong institutional support. The specific intervention areas have now been finalised across two blocks, Canning I and Basanti. Significant groundwork has been laid for the technical and social aspects of the project. A comprehensive baseline study has commenced, with survey tools developed and deployed to households for data collection.

To ensure a scientific approach, soil and water sampling locations have been identified and geo-tagged for future analysis. Simultaneously, community engagement has been initiated through the mobilisation of local SHGs and discussions with community leaders to build awareness and support for the upcoming activities. With the groundwork complete, the next major steps include analysing the survey data and lab samples, generating GIS-based risk maps, and identifying for plantation materials.





# Ecological Restoration of a Peri Urban Lake & Wetland

Like several urban centres in India, Bengaluru faces severe water scarcity. In response to this crisis, characterised by polluted lakes and depleted groundwater, SEEDS initiated a project to ecologically restore the Huvinayakanahalli Lake in the city's northern peri urban region. The project supported by NIKE, aimed to revive the vital water body and its surrounding ecosystem through scientific methods and strong community participation, creating a replicable model for urban water security.

The core of the intervention involved rebuilding the wetland ecosystem. Key rainwater inlet channels were desilted and strengthened, significantly increasing freshwater flow and storage. The project increased the volume of rainwater held in the lake by 35% and boosted groundwater percolation by 45%. The surrounding catchment area was replanted with diverse, native vegetation to improve biodiversity. This has had a direct positive effect on local farming, as one resident, Lokesh, noted that the native plants "attract a large number of birds and bees that feed on pests that destroy our crops," thereby reducing the need for chemical pesticides.

The impact on community livelihoods has been transformative. The restoration has recharged local aquifers, making farming viable again and providing a stable source of income. This success is best captured by local farmer Byregowda, who states "the lake restoration has been a blessing. Our water tables have improved, our crops are thriving, and we no longer struggle with deep borewells".

Through community engagement, the project has successfully demonstrated that reviving natural ecosystems is essential for safeguarding both the environment and the economic well-being of a growing city.



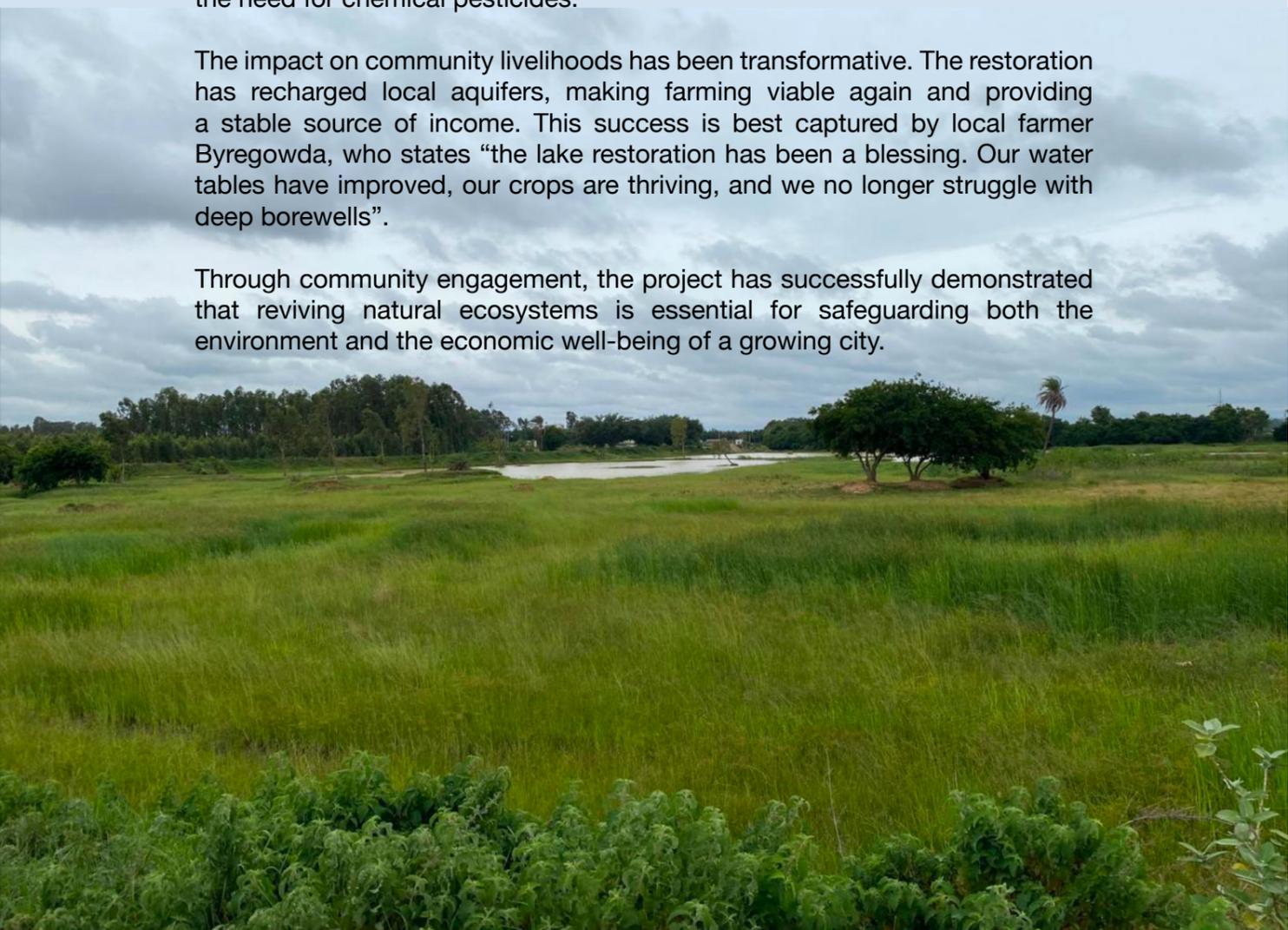
## Restoration of Dhankot Waterbody in Gurugram

In response to the severe degradation of the Dhankot water body in Gurugram, which had become a polluted dumping ground due to years of neglect and direct sewage discharge, SEEDS launched a comprehensive restoration project. Supported by Ingersoll Rand, the initiative aimed to revive the lake's ecological health and transform the surrounding area into a vibrant and safe community space.

The restoration began with a systematic approach, including desilting and dredging the lake to restore its natural depth and water retention capacity. A durable embankment, reinforced with geo textile bags, was constructed to prevent soil erosion. To tackle the root cause of pollution, a new drainage channel was built to divert sewage away from the lake. The project also introduced innovative nature-based solutions to improve water quality, including solar-powered aerators to increase oxygen levels and floating wetlands to naturally absorb pollutants.

Community participation was central to the project's success. Residents were involved from the initial design phase, helping shape the vision for the revitalised space. Local school leader Mrs. Reena Dahiya, who played a key role in mobilising support, highlighted the urgency of the intervention, recalling the constant "bad smells, mosquitoes, and flies" that plagued the area.

Today, the restored water body is surrounded by a landscaped community park featuring a jogging track, outdoor gym equipment, safety fencing, and solar powered lighting. Through this initiative, a neglected and hazardous site has been transformed into a healthy ecosystem and a cherished public asset, with the community now pledged to its continued upkeep.



# Restoration of Sewri Mangrove Park

Supported by Worley, this project focused on the ecological restoration of the Sewri Mangrove Park in Mumbai through a targeted five-month cleaning and waste collection initiative. The primary goal was to enhance the park's ecosystem health and climate resilience by addressing pollution and degradation in identified zones. The project commenced with a comprehensive baseline assessment to map the park's biodiversity, document existing flora and fauna, and identify key threats from urbanisation and climate change.

A major component of the project was the physical restoration of the wetland, which involved large scale cleaning drives to remove accumulated waste and invasive species, with the aim of establishing a plastic-free zone. Modern tools like GIS satellite imagery have been used to map mangrove cover and identify erosion prone areas, supporting the development of long-term conservation strategies. A key expected outcome is the empowerment of local communities through active involvement in the cleanup and conservation efforts. This approach aims to foster a sense of ownership and long-term stewardship, ensuring the sustained protection of the vital urban mangrove ecosystem.



# Shared Ownership in Urban Restoration

In Gurugram, the Wazirabad Lake, a vital catchment area in the Aravalli Hills, had been degraded into a dumping ground for construction waste and sewage. After a successful three-year restoration effort by SEEDS, cleaned the lake and established a community park, the focus has shifted to enhancing the revived ecosystem with community participation.

Supported by SHL, the project saw a recent tree plantation drive in October 2024 with corporate volunteers. After a briefing on the lake's transformation, which included showcasing benches made from recycled site waste, the volunteers planted saplings of Champa and Blackboard trees along the lakeside. The activity aimed to enrich the local environment, a sentiment echoed by volunteer Ujwal Jain, who noted that planting trees would revive the numerous associated ecosystems and attract wildlife.

The event highlighted the project's multi-layered impact. Volunteers reflected on the broader environmental benefits, with one participant, Puneet, observing that a restored lake helps recharge the groundwater aquifers. Beyond the ecological gains, many found the experience to be a source of personal well-being. Volunteers Anirudh and Anivesh described the restored site as a welcome escape from fast-paced and chaotic city life, emphasising that community engagement is key to keeping such natural spaces safe and vibrant.

This initiative successfully demonstrates how collaborative efforts in ecological restoration can create lasting benefits, transforming a neglected wasteland into a thriving community asset that supports both biodiversity and human well-being.

# Managing Solid Waste in Assam

In response to a critically inadequate waste management system in Bokakhat, Assam, SEEDS launched a comprehensive Solid Waste Management (SWM) project in June 2023 aided by Interglobe Foundation. The initiative addressed the environmental and public health risks posed by unregulated waste disposal near the Difloo River, which threatens local ecosystems, including the nearby Kaziranga National Park. The project's goal was to establish a sustainable, efficient, and community-driven system by promoting the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Continuing from last year, the intervention employed a multi-pronged strategy focused on system strengthening and public engagement. To optimise operations, detailed route maps for door-to-door (DTD) collection were created for all 10 municipal wards, supported by household surveys covering over 1,800 families to gather data on waste generation and segregation practices. SEEDS actively collaborated with municipal officials to enhance efficiency and has trained staff on Management Information Systems (MIS) for better data tracking.

Community participation is also central to the project's success. Awareness campaigns have been extensive, including door-to-door monitoring of 650 households and sessions at local colleges engaging over 280 students on responsible waste management. Cleanliness drives have also been organised to foster civic responsibility.

Despite this progress, the project faces challenges, including inconsistent fee collection, delayed distribution of segregation dustbins, and high operational costs. Moving forward, the initiative will focus on intensifying awareness campaigns to improve waste segregation at the source, further improving the DTD collection system, organising plastic clean up drives, and establishing eco clubs in schools to ensure long term sustainability.







**aspire**

Agency to Thrive Despite Adverse Climate Impacts

Keeping alive hopes and  
realising ambitions

## An Integrated Approach to Women's Livelihood Generation in Bihar

The Bihar Sustainable Livelihood Development (BSLD) project supported by Heifer, continues to make significant strides in mitigating the impacts of climate change, such as recurring floods and droughts, on marginalised communities in Darbhanga, Bihar. These environmental shocks have severely hindered economic opportunities, particularly for a population heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture and livestock. The project fostered holistic and sustainable livelihoods through an integrated approach by building economic and environmental resilience for vulnerable families.

Implemented in the Biraul block, the project's core strategy empowered women smallholder farmers through the formation and strengthening of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Between March 2024 and March 2025, it successfully engaged 8,000 members across 16 Gram Panchayats. These groups serve as platforms for comprehensive capacity-building, with training provided on a wide range of subjects including Improved Animal Management (IAM), advanced goat rearing, kitchen gardening, and backyard poultry. To ensure institutional strength and self-reliance, members also received training in SHG management, financial planning, gender justice, and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR).

The project's impact is evident in its financial outcomes. The SHGs reported a cumulative saving of ₹1,01,30,245 and facilitated inter-loaning of ₹89,61,980, directing a significant portion towards income-generating activities. Governance was strengthened through the formation of 52 Project Monitoring Committees. Despite facing challenges such as funding delays, irregular SHG repayments, and delayed insurance processing, the BSLD has significantly enhanced socio-economic resilience. The way forward focuses on strengthening these financial mechanisms, improving coordination with banks and insurance providers, and developing collective marketing strategies to ensure long-term sustainability for the communities.

## A Path to Self-Employment for Rural Women

A 15-day goat rearing training programme was conducted in July 2024, at the Bhawanipur Panchayat Bhawan, organised jointly by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and SEEDS under the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDP). The initiative aimed to promote self-employment and economic development by providing rural women with comprehensive training in modern goat farming.

The training covered a wide range of topics essential for successful goat rearing. The initial days focused on the basics, including an introduction to livestock, identification of goat breeds, and proper housing. Subsequent sessions provided detailed information on animal feed, the importance of fodder, and methods for fodder production and conservation, such as silage and hay techniques.

A significant portion of the training was dedicated to animal health management. Participants learned to differentiate between healthy and ill animals and received extensive information on the symptoms and management of bacterial and viral diseases. The curriculum also included practical guidance on deworming, castration of male kids, and proper breeding processes.



# balance sheet

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY  
Address:- 315, Kailash Tower -1, Mount Kailash New Delhi - 110065

**Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31st March 25**

(Amount in INR)

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>I Income</b>			
(a) Donations and Grants	8	27,88,69,597	17,35,99,639
(b) Other Income	9	61,82,994	43,58,765
<b>II Total</b>		28,50,52,591	17,79,58,404
<b>III Expenses:</b>			
(a) Expenditure on Objects of Organization-Program Expenses	10	18,16,45,643	13,91,73,359
(b) Establishment Expenses	11	2,54,69,945	2,76,56,097
(c) Depreciation and amortization expense	12	-	-
<b>Total</b>		20,71,15,588	16,68,29,456
<b>IV Excess of Income over Expenditure before exceptional and extraordinary items (II- III)</b>		7,79,37,004	1,11,28,948
<b>V Exceptional items</b>		-	-
<b>VI Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year before extraordinary items (IV-V)</b>		7,79,37,004	1,11,28,948
<b>VII Extraordinary Items</b>		-	-
<b>VIII Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year (VI-VII)</b>		7,79,37,004	1,11,28,948
<b>Appropriations Transfer to funds:</b>			
Transfer to/(from) Project fund:		6,68,96,611	1,16,76,111
Balance transferred to General Fund:		56,23,299	42,75,956
Balance transferred to Disaster Response Fund		54,17,093	-48,23,119

Brief about the Entity & Summary of significant accounting policies 1&2  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

For & on behalf:  
S. Sahoo & Co  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm No. 322952E



CA (Dr.) Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB  
Partner  
MM No. 057426  
UDIN: 25057426BMICCV7758  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 08-09-2025

For & on behalf:  
SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL  
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Manu Gupta President  
Rajesh Bheda Vice President  
Anshu Sharma Secretary



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY  
Address:- 315, Kailash Tower -1, Mount Kailash New Delhi - 110065

**Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025**

(Amount in INR)

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
<b>I Sources of Funds</b>			
<b>1 NPO Funds</b>	3		
(a) Reserve Funds		3,55,45,125	2,99,21,825
(b) Assets Funds		18,81,879	24,75,048
(c) Project Funds		11,76,83,369	5,08,04,342
(d) Disaster Response Fund		2,35,15,149	1,80,80,472
(e) Corpus Fund		46,77,711	46,77,711
		18,33,03,233	10,59,59,399
<b>2 Current liabilities</b>			
(a) Other current liabilities	4	15,68,928	6,46,520
		15,68,928	6,46,520
<b>Total</b>		18,48,72,161	10,66,05,918
<b>II Application of Funds</b>			
<b>1 Non-current assets</b>			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	5		
(i) Property, Plant and Equipment		18,81,879	24,75,048
		18,81,879	24,75,048
<b>2 Current assets</b>			
(a) Cash and bank balances	6	18,11,66,514	10,19,80,827
(b) Short Term Loans and Advances	7	18,23,766	21,50,043
		18,29,90,280	10,41,30,869
<b>Total</b>		18,48,72,161	10,66,05,918

Brief about the Entity & Summary of significant accounting policies 1&2  
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

For & on behalf:  
S. Sahoo & Co  
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CA (Dr.) Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB  
Partner  
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SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL  
DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Manu Gupta President  
Rajesh Bheda Vice President  
Anshu Sharma Secretary







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