Rising temperatures have been causing distress across the world, but for those most vulnerable, it is a silent killer. Between 2005-2015, 11,190 people lost their lives to heatstroke. 2018 was the fourth warmest year on record globally; and the sixth warmest for India. Heatwaves are set to continue this year as well, but may again pass by unseen.¹

The IMD has issued a three-month seasonal forecast that predicts average maximum temperatures from April to June 2019 to be warmer than normal in most parts of central India and some parts of northwest India.²

The signs of an unrelenting summer are already evident in Maharashtra. Part of the core heatwave zone, cities including Amravati, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Wardha, Parbhani and Nanded have recorded temperatures from 43 - 45°C, with heatwaves already occurring in mid-April. In these urban areas, heat trapped by roofs, pavements, and concrete structures also raises the night temperature, not allowing bodies to cool down. In the peak summer months, this creates a spike in indoor temperatures which causes ‘heat stress’ and severe health consequences.

² http://www.imd.gov.in/pages/heatwave.php
CALL FOR SUPPORT:

SEEDS is launching an appeal to support marginalised communities living in temporary settlements and at-risk neighbourhoods in severe heat prone zones of Maharashtra. We are working on three interventions:

**Cool Roofs:** Roofs that reflect light instead of absorbing it and decrease the heat absorbed to lower temperatures.

The houses in many slums are, essentially, hot metal boxes that are highly conductive and heat up easily. The roof is the most critical area to fix for tin houses since that’s where most of the heat gain happens. Similarly, 30-40% of heat in a building enters through a dark and uncovered roof. Thus, altering the roof means reducing one-third of the heat gain in a building. Depending upon the kind of shelter, SEEDS proposes different solutions such as introduction of double roof and sky vent in tin houses; and introduction of a limewash reflective layer, broken-china-mosaic or earthen pot insulation in permanent houses to deal with heat gain through the roof.

Rs. 40,000/- to support one household with modification of their existing roof into a cool roof

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<th>Piyau (drinking water facility) and resting space</th>
<th>Community fire post</th>
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<td>SEEDS proposes to build Piyau, designed following traditional techniques to keep the water cool. The purpose of Piyau is not only to provide drinking water to the passer-by but also a resting space, especially for the elderly. The facility will also display awareness material on heat-related information and will be maintained by local NGO or community.</td>
<td>In case of informal settlements, chances of fire break-out increase during peak summers. To tackle this, SEEDS proposes to build a community fire post, close to a water source like hand pump or well with an off-the-grid generator and pump. The community will be trained to maintain and operate it themselves, in case of any fire emergency.</td>
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| Rs. 2,00,000/- to establish a Piyau (drinking water facility) and resting space | Rs. 6,00,000/- to establish a community fire post and conduct trainings |

**About SEEDS**

SEEDS (Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society) is a not-for-profit organisation that enables community resilience through practical solutions in the areas of disaster readiness, response and rehabilitation.

Since 1994, the organisation has worked extensively on every major disaster in the Indian subcontinent – grafting innovative technology on to traditional wisdom. It has reached out to families affected by disasters and climate stresses; strengthened and rebuilt schools and homes; and has invariably put its faith in skill building, planning and communications to foster long-term resilience.

SEEDS is also India’s first agency to be certified for the global Core Humanitarian Standards – an international certification system for quality and accountability in humanitarian response.

Among its ongoing work on emergency response, SEEDS is supporting reconstruction of schools in Jammu & Kashmir; is working on repair of schools and facilitating families to reconstruct their homes in Kerala; and in partnership with the Government of India and UNDP, also enabling reconstruction of around 26,000 homes after the earthquake in Nepal. SEEDS is also promoting safe water and improved health and hygiene practices among vulnerable communities in Bihar and Kerala.

As SEEDS celebrates 25 years of outstanding service to humanity, it is re-anchoring its approach to building resilience through innovation. It continues to empower the most vulnerable across Asia to build a better future.

**To support us, contact:** Ms. Tanya Singh, Fundraising Specialist | Office: +91 11 26174272 | Mobile: +91 9868506347 | Email: tanya@seedsindia.org