

## India Report

### National Conclusions



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## Contents

About VFL 2019 .....	3
Selection of Risk Areas, Communities and Sample Size.....	8
Selection of the risk areas.....	10
Findings and Conclusions at the Community and National level.....	11
Prioritised conclusion at the Community level .....	22
Next steps .....	28
Annexes:.....	30



## About VFL 2019

### 1.1 Overview of the Global Project

Views from the frontline (VFL) 2019 is the largest independent global review of Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level. It aims to strengthen the inclusion and collaboration between at risk people, civil society and government in the design and implementation of policies and practices to reduce risks and strengthen resilience.

VFL 2019 establishes a local baseline and local monitoring process to measure progress towards achieving an inclusive “*people-centred*” approach to resilience-building, as promoted within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and other frameworks part of the Agenda 2030. In so doing, VFL 2019 aims to increase awareness and strengthen accountability of governments and inter-governmental bodies for a people-centred approach. VFL 2019 takes a *systems-wide* perspective that recognises different actors have different but interconnected responsibilities at different administrative levels. Local-level interviews are complemented by survey questions targeting key informants working on the sub-national/national institutional and political environment. Questions on the “*enabling environment*” are designed to increase awareness and assess progress on wider institutional factors essential to scale out local action, putting a political spotlight on gaps and challenges to be addressed in through mutually reinforcing actions by different actors at different scales. The whole process is led by local actors themselves, building their capacity to monitor and utilise local risk information.

### 1.2 Overview of VFL 2019 in your country

The VFL Project locations are selected keeping in mind the vast size of the country. The project locations were chosen accordingly from four different states of INDIA. The landscape is varied with dense vegetation to deserts, from marshy lands to mountainous terrains. The selected sites were always been at the centre stage of natural calamities like Landslides, Avalanche, Flash floods, Heavy Rainfalls, Earthquakes etc. Keeping in mind these frequent disastrous happenings in the selected sites that cause major setbacks to lives, livelihoods and property (both movable and immovable).

VFL 2019 gives a platform to understand the ground situation and analysis the gap and barrier of all level in building resilience of the vulnerable community. The VFL survey is with all key stakeholders such as the community, Local governance, Civil Society organisations to understand the awareness and the capacities and to analyse the gaps and develop suitable action plans towards building a resilient community.

#### 1.2.1. Country Context: India:

India<sup>1</sup> is vulnerable, in varying degrees, to a large number of disasters. More than 58.6 per cent of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity; over 40 million hectares (12%) of its land is prone to floods and river erosion; close to 5,700 kms, out of the 7,516 kms long coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; 68% of its cultivable area is vulnerable to droughts; and, its hilly areas



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are at risk from landslides and avalanches. Moreover, India is also vulnerable to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) emergencies and other man-made disasters.

Disaster risks in India are further compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics. Clearly, all these contribute to a situation where disasters seriously threaten India’s economy, its population and sustainable development.

In the context of human vulnerability to disasters, the economically and socially weaker segments of the population are the ones that are most seriously affected. Within the vulnerable groups, elderly persons, women, children especially women rendered destitute, children orphaned on account of disasters and differently able persons are exposed to higher risks.

**Hazards and Vulnerabilities**

India due to its geo climatic positioning is prone to numerous hazards. Coupled with numerous spaces, socio-political reasons the vulnerability towards these hazards are often reaches catastrophic ranges. Some of the prominent hazards witnessed in India are as follows:

Natural	Anthropomorphic
Earthquake	Fire
Landslide	Riots/Stampede
Fire	Industrial Explosion
Flood/Cloud Burst	Terrorism/Naxalism
Cyclone	
Tsunami	
Snow Avalanche	
Draught	
Hailstorm, Thunderstorm/Lightening	

**1.2.2. VFL 2019 and its implementation in India**

Below is a sequential representation of the National Coordinating Agencies’ (OSVSWA in India) efforts for the implementation of the project

1. A National Advisory Committee formed in the beginning of the project comprising of 12 members from national level (renowned personalities on disaster risk reduction / climate change, members from UN agencies)
2. The project location / community for the VFL 2019 were selected by National Advocacy Committee looking at the severity.
3. OSVSWA, the lead agency (National Coordinating Organization) for GNDR VFL called for proposal/Expression of Interest from all the GNDR members in India to become partner organization (PO).



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4. Interested Organisation applied for the project out of which four organizations were selected based on the criteria set by OSVSWA (as per the guideline of the VFL Project of GNDR).
5. Selected applicants were called for 2 days training at Bhubaneswar to set the context for the VFL and orient the applicants on the objectives of VFL and methodology.
6. The 2 days training was embedded with field practicum where the tools were field tested.
7. Implementation agency trained the field enumerators for conducting the survey
8. Surveys were subsequently conducted in the project locations.
9. The data was uploaded on GNDR online portal.

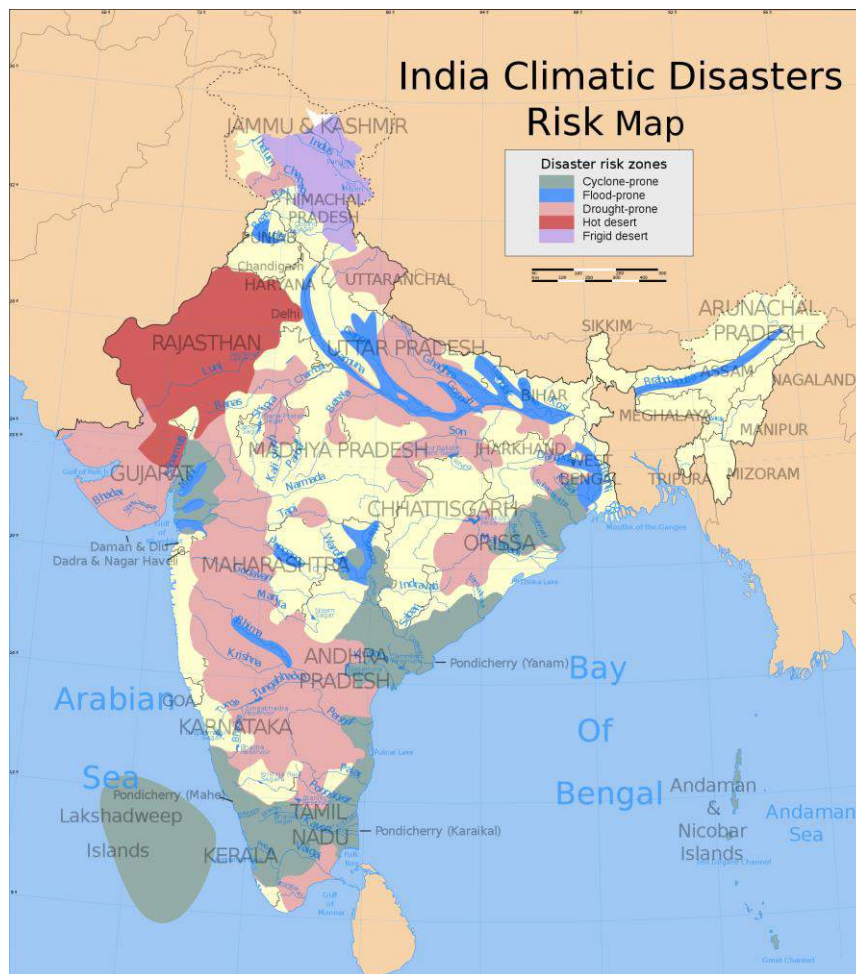


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### 1.2.3. How VFL 2019 is relevant to building resilience in our country

Due to the reason that India is vulnerable to numerous disasters/hazards and large number of its population are living in the threshold of devastation due to it; building resilience is the key to minimize the loss of life and livelihood is the only apparent way to safe guard its vulnerable population to a great extent. VFL 2019 is extremely relevant at this juncture since it is a noble effort to understand the vulnerable situation at the ground and understand the people's perspective towards mitigating disasters. To execute the, project meticulous efforts were taken such as identification of location for project implementation, finding the right partners & outlining of appropriate methodology for execution.



### Framework

The country must prioritize on building resilience strategy before disasters strike. Over the years, the cost of natural disasters has increased globally and in India). We therefore need more systematic efforts in trying to reduce disaster risks The framework has set three strategic goals regarding the integration of disaster risk reduction (DRR) into 1)sustainable development policies 2)capacity building and 3) preparedness and vulnerability reduction.



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## **Funding needed to strengthen disaster resilience**

Planning for and investing in climate-friendly and disaster-resilient infrastructure from the start will be a cost-effective way to reduce future losses. It's upon the international agencies for more financial support.

At present, international agencies provide seven times more assistance to the developing countries to respond to disasters after they occur, than fund preparation activities beforehand.

Even though this funding gap has reduced, much more is desired. Such investments and support will have dual benefits for the nations like India in development and disaster reduction.

Besides calling upon the international agencies, it also urges governments (both national and state) to work on realistic policy and budget planning. It is recommended to integrate disaster risk reduction into national development and investment plans, and spend more on prevention.

## **Insurance against catastrophes**

Although climate change is spurring more natural hazards and rapid urbanization is increasing exposure to such hazards, very minimal amount of catastrophes have been covered under insurance.

India has 15 disaster related insurance schemes, but effectiveness of such schemes needs to be prioritized. More such schemes are needed so that the needy get insurance claims rapidly.

**Location:** The VLF Project locations were identified based on the criteria outlined in the VFL guidelines

**Methods:** Through a systematic review and analysis, survey criteria were established for each of the partner agencies. Out of proposed criteria, accessibility and proximity to homes of affected people were stressed. Moreover, several other criteria were analysed, including suitable size, suitable distance from hazardous areas, geological hazards and land slope, suitable distance from medical centres, water supply and Security. The mentioned criteria was divided in six main categories, such as size and location, disaster reduction, relief and rescue facilities, feasibility of the site, environmental and social aspects etc.

**Conclusion:** Selection and applying proper criteria for shelter site selection after disasters is a multi-disciplinary task. The decision needs relevant models and/or tools. Geographic Information System (GIS) is a useful tool for this purpose.



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## Selection of Risk Areas, Communities and Sample Size

**List of Risk Communities and Sample size – INDIA :** Total Number of households to be sampled in 15 communities was fixed to be 1500 in numbers. The following is a brief of the sample in each state.

### Risk Area 1.: Bihar:

<u>District</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Village/Ward</u>
<b>Purnia</b>	<u>Dagarua</u>	<u>Kochelli</u>
	<u>Baisi</u>	<u>Surigaon</u>
<b>Patna</b>	Bakhtiarpur	Bakhtiarpur Nagar Panchayat Ward no. 18
	Patna Rural	Sonawan
	Patna Rural	Patna Municipal Corporation Ward no. 37

**Data collection:** Random Household Surveys

<u>Rural/Urban</u>	<u>Name of the community</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Total number of households</u>	<u>Number of households sampled(shinyapp)</u>	<u>Sample recommended by OSVSWA</u>
Urban	Bakhtiarpur Nagar Panchayat Ward no. 18	2108	344	35	68
Urban	Patna Municipal Corporation Ward no. 37	14317	2711	240	103
Rural	Kochelli village	2683	586	225	121
Rural	Surigaon village	4504	876	377	132
Rural	Sonawan village	2322	334	2	52
<b>Total number of households surveyed:</b>				<b>879</b>	<b>476</b>

### Risk Area 2.: Gujarat:

<u>District</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Village/Ward</u>
Kutch	Mundra	<u>Beraja</u>
	Bhuj	Bhuj Municipality Ward no. 3
Banaskantha	Kankrej	Katediya

**Data collection:** Random Household Surveys

<u>Rural/Urban</u>	<u>Name of the community</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Total number of households</u>	<u>Number of households sampled(shinyapp)</u>
Urban	Bhuj Municipality Ward no. 3	5148	1015	90
Rural	Beraja village	1413	309	132
Rural	Katediya village	1435	258	134
<b>Total number of householdssurveyed:</b>				<b>356</b>



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**Risk Area 3.: Sikkim:**

District	Block	Village/Ward
North Sikkim	Pentok	Mangan Ward no 2.
North Sikkim	SingchitManul	Lachen

**Data collection:** Random Household Surveys

Rural/Urban	Name of the community	Population	Total number of households	Number of households to be sampled (shinyapp)	Number of households sampled
Urban	Mangan Ward no. 2	1,524	342	0	129
Rural	Lachen	1,325	338	4	118
<b>Total number of households surveyed:</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>247</b>

**Risk Area 4.: Odisha:**

District	Block	Village/Ward
<b>Koraput</b>	<u>Boriguma</u>	Boriguma Census Town
	<u>Kotpad</u>	Kotpad Town Ward no. 10
	<u>Pottangi</u>	Pottangi village
<b>Jagatsinghpur</b>	Ersama	Japabhuan village
	Kujang	Jayaksankhapur village

**Data collection:** Random Household Surveys:

Rural/Urban	Name of the community	Population	Total number of households	Number of households sampled (shinyapp)	Sample recommended by OSVSWA
Urban	Boriguma Census Town	9785	2461	28	96
Urban	Kotpad Town Ward no. 10	1779	413	5	61
Rural	Pottangi village	4401	1137	49	49
Rural	Japabhuan village	1358	335	160	133
Rural	Jayaksankhapur village	1122	264	20	82
<b>Total number of households surveyed:</b>				<b>262</b>	<b>421</b>



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## Selection of the risk areas

### 1. Brief Details on the Selected Risk Areas:

Justification of the Selection of Risk Areas: The selected risk areas are one among the traditional disaster-prone areas where the disasters have happened in the recent past. The risk areas were identified considering the guidelines of the VFL 2019 and in-depth consultation with the implementing partners. The same has then put forth before the national committee for their ratification.

While selecting the risk areas, various parameters such as understanding of the “notion of disaster” where, which disasters should be taken into consideration for the current project, whose prospective should be considered for the study, identifying the different tolerance groups, considering victims of silent disasters and creeping disasters etc. were carefully analyzed and accordingly decisions were taken. The guiding principles of the selection of risk areas are as follows:

- Emphasis on slow onset disasters, which are more difficult to isolate in assessments but have tremendous consequences, for instance resulting in migration (coping strategies) or displacement (undergoing a situation).
- When looking at the vulnerability and exposure criteria it is important to identify and differentiate different age categories as well as communities depending on the source of income: service-based livelihood and land-based ones are differently affected by disasters.
- Special attention was given to the identification of the hazards and risks; causes and symptoms were clearly differentiated. Ex: displacement is a symptom, a coping mechanism in reaction to a situation.
- A multi-hazard analysis has been chosen in order to identify the chosen risk areas.  $risk = (hazard \times vulnerability) / capacity$
- Geo-climatic zones were considered in order to consider the evolution of hazards nature and localization.
- States having different profiles in vulnerability, hazard exposure as well as capacity were chosen
- Secondary data was necessary as the ones readily available are often a decade old and do not seem accurate anymore to the committee, hence they do not allow to make an informed assessment.
- A communication plan was done for dissemination and good use of the survey/findings: infographics, social media, etc.

### 2. Brief Details about the Selected Communities:

- The project has imparted equal weight age to the Rural and urban risk areas and equitable representative samples were taken up for the surveys to arrive at a unbiased set of results
- Indicators were fixed for the study in order to choose the most relevant communities within the determined risk areas such as:
  - ❖ Poverty level
  - ❖ Tribal / non-Tribal populations
  - ❖ Previous / ongoing DRR interventions
  - ❖ Active / Inactive government actions
  - ❖ The number of communities per risk areas depends on the population size, number of districts and level of vulnerability/exposure to hazards.



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Risk Area (State)	Number of Communities	Selected Districts
SIKKIM	2	North Sikkim
BIHAR	5	Patna, Purnia
GUJARAT	3	Kutch, Banaskantha
ODISHA	5	Jagatsinghpur, Koraput

### 3. Sample Size:

Total Number of households to be sampled in 15 communities was fixed to be 1500 in numbers and the samples were to be collected from the above-mentioned communities. The details of the samples are outlined in the previous sections of this report.

## Findings and Conclusions at the Community and National level

**Findings and Conclusions at the Community level:** The broad finding of each state are outlined in the following tables

### A. Sikkim

Risk Area	Communities	Findings	Conclusion
North Sikkim	Mangan Ward no. 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority say that occasionally they have offices to address or access the most risk/threats</li> <li>2) Majority think there is budget specifically allocated for addressing risk/threats</li> <li>3) The major risk/threats are landslides and earthquakes.</li> <li>4) Majority said that they can access resources from the local government to address risk/threat</li> <li>5) The majority said that yes there is consideration for disasters during development plans.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The local government lacks and need to build more to address building or access point/offices to address duress during risk/threats.</li> <li>2) There are still some respondents who are vulnerable and do not have access to these allocated funds.</li> <li>3) Landslides and earthquakes are the major risks.</li> <li>4) The resources still need to reach everyone during risk/threats</li> <li>5) More accurate planning is required during development works.</li> </ol>
	Kabi village	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority say that occasionally they have offices to address or access the most risk/threats</li> <li>2) Majority think there is budget specifically allocated</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) More emphasis is required to have offices to access or address risk while there very few</li> <li>2) The budget is specifically allocated to address risk/threat.</li> <li>3) Respondents said that eco-</li> </ol>



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		<p>for addressing risk/threats</p> <p>3) Majority said that eco-systems contribute in protecting the community during disasters.</p> <p>4) The major threats are landslides and earthquakes.</p> <p>5) The major barriers are lack of preparedness and policies.</p>	<p>system does help in reducing effects of risk/threats.</p> <p>4) The major threats are landslides and earthquakes</p> <p>5) The major hindrances during risk/threats are preparedness and lack of local government policies.</p>
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### Picture and Quotations from communities



Orientation to Volunteers on Survey Format  
Photo:IGSSS



FGD with Communities  
Photo: IGSSS



FGD with Communities  
Photo: IGSSS



FGD with Communities  
Photo: IGSSS



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## B. Odisha

Risk Area	Communities	Findings	Conclusion
Jagatsinghpur	Japabhuan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority of the local government respondents have prioritized cyclones as the biggest threat. However CSO have prioritized Floods as the biggest threat. The community respondents have however stated that the biggest threat that they face is Cyclone and lack of access to water.</li> <li>2) Almost 35% of the community respondents have stated that they are not engaged in the assessments, while 42% have stated that they are not engaged in the planning and 37% of the respondents have stated that they are not engaged in the implementation by the government to address the issues of disaster risks. However majority of the community respondents have stated that they are included by the government in the monitoring.</li> <li>3) 79% of the people with disabilities have stated that they do not have access to the resources from the government to reduce the disaster risks, while 71% of the people with disabilities have stated that they do not have access to the information. The people with disabilities have also stated that the factors preventing inclusion includes Accessibility, resources and time.</li> <li>4) 39% of the respondents have stated that the disaster risks and the climate issues are not taken into account while developing local action plans , while 43% of them also stated that the local investment projects do not take into consideration disaster issues</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) There is difference in perception of the risks by different stakeholders.</li> <li>2) There is lack of community engagement in the assessments, planning and implementation led by the local government to address the disaster risks.</li> <li>3) People with Disabilities are excluded and they lack access to the resources and the information which would help them to reduce the risks.</li> <li>4) The local development is not risk informed.</li> <li>5) Eco systems and Eco system based DRR approaches are not considered while developing local actions plans.</li> </ol>



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		<p>and climate issues.</p> <p>5) Almost 37% of the respondents have stated that the ecosystem based approaches are not used in the resilience building. While 44% of the respondents have stated that the ecosystems are not considered while developing development plans.</p>	
	Jayaksankhapur	<p>1) Majority of the local government respondents have prioritized cyclones and floods as their biggest risks. However the CSOs and the Community respondents have prioritized floods as their biggest risks.</p> <p>2) 95% of the women respondents have stated that the impacts of the disasters on lives and livelihoods have increased little over period of time. The factors acting as barriers includes lack of communication, lack of government efficiency, lack of facilities, lack of time and lack of preparedness. Prevention is also cited as one of the major factor preventing their inclusion.</p> <p>3) 45% of the communities stated that they are not engaged by the government during assessments. While majority of the community respondents also stated that either they are not engaged or engaged to a very limited extend during the planning, implementation and</p>	<p>1) Floods is the biggest risks in the communities.</p> <p>2) Women are still more vulnerable than other stakeholders. The barriers to the actions convey the lack of preparedness of the women to address the issues of risks and vulnerabilities.</p> <p>3) There is lack of community engagement in the DRR processes led by the government.</p> <p>4) The local development is not risk informed.</p> <p>5) Eco system based DRR approaches are not considered in resilience building processes.</p>



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		<p>monitoring processes led by the government to address the disaster risks or threat.</p> <p>4) Almost 56% of the respondents stated that disaster risks and the climate issues are not taken into consideration in local development plans while 52% also stated the disaster risks and climate issues are not taken into consideration in the local investment projects.</p> <p>5) Almost 33% of the respondents have stated that the eco systems contribute to protecting communities against hazards. Also 53% have stated that the eco system approaches are not considered in the resilience building processes. While almost 29% have stated that ecosystems are not considered while developing local action plans.</p>	
<b>Koraput</b>	Boriguma	<p>1) Majority of the respondents said that the local government does not talk to the community including the most vulnerable during disasters</p> <p>2) 78% of the community is not involved or involved to limited extent in implementation of actions taken to reduce risks</p> <p>3) Majority think that ecosystem does not contribute to protection of</p>	<p>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</p> <p>2) The local community is not involved in the implementation of actions taken to reduce risk.</p> <p>3) Most of the people think that eco system does</p>



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		<p>the community during disasters,</p> <p>4) Majority feel that the ecosystem is impacted due to development projects.</p> <p>5) The most major threats are drought and lack of access to water</p>	<p>not protect the community during disasters.</p> <p>4) Most of the people said the eco-system is hampered during developmental works.</p> <p>5) Major threats are drought and lack of access to water.</p>
	Kotpad Town Ward no. 10	<p>1) Majority of the respondents said that the local government does not talk to the community including the most vulnerable during disasters</p> <p>2) 51% of the community is not involved in implementation of actions taken to reduce risks</p> <p>3) Majority think that ecosystem does not contribute to protection of the community during disasters,</p> <p>4) Majority feel that the ecosystem is impacted due to development projects.</p> <p>5) The most major threats are drought and alcoholism.</p>	<p>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</p> <p>2) The local community is not involved in the implementation of actions taken to reduce risk.</p> <p>3) Most of the people think that eco system does not protect the community during disasters.</p> <p>4) Most of the people said the eco-system is hampered during developmental works.</p> <p>5) Major threats are drought and alcoholism.</p>
	Pottangi	<p>1) Majority of the respondents said that the local government does not talk to the community including the most vulnerable during disasters</p> <p>2) 67% of the community is involved to a limited extent in implementation of actions taken to reduce risks</p>	<p>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</p> <p>2) The local community is not or involved to limited extent in the implementation of</p>



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		<p>3) Majority think that ecosystem does not contribute to protection of the community during disasters,</p> <p>4) Majority feel that the ecosystem is impacted due to development projects.</p> <p>5) The most major threats are cyclones and crop damage.</p>	<p>actions taken to reduce risk.</p> <p>3) Most of the people think that eco system does not protect the community during disasters.</p> <p>4) Most of the people said the eco-system is hampered during developmental works.</p> <p>5) Major threats are cyclones and crop damage.</p>
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### Photos from the Community



FGD elderly people JS Pur, Odisha  
Photo: NYSADRI



HH Survey - Basudha Khora, Gopabandhusahi,  
Potangi, Odisha, Photo: NYSADRI



Data Collection - Hadibandhu Behera, Japa,  
Odisha , Photo: NYSADRI



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## Bihar

Risk Areas	Communities	Findings	Conclusion
Patna	Bakhtiarpur Nagar Panchayat Ward No. 18	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 62 % local government does not talk to the community including the most vulnerable on actions during disasters</li> <li>2) 40% of community is not involved in implementation of actions taken to reduce risks</li> <li>3) Majority think that ecosystem does not contribute to protection of the community during disasters,</li> <li>4) Majority feel that the ecosystem is impacted due to development projects.</li> <li>5) The most major threats are drought and floods for which there is a 16.2% of loss of lives and 11.97 % loss of economic and livelihood loss.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</li> <li>2) The local community is not involved in the implementation of actions taken to reduce risk.</li> <li>3) Most of the community thinks that the eco-system does not help in disasters and they need to be educated.</li> <li>4) The development planning should be done more cautiously so that it does not harm the eco-system.</li> <li>5) The major threats are drought and floods.</li> </ol>
	Patna Municipal Corporation Ward No. 37	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority of the community feel that eco-system is considered during development works.</li> <li>2) The major risks/threats are due to earthquakes, floods and storms for which loss of lives and loss of assets are major issues.</li> <li>3) Majority of the women respondents said that they are not talked to regularly on most significant threats.</li> <li>4) Majority of the elderly said that they are occasionally involved in the implementation of the actions /planning to reduce risk/threats.</li> <li>5) 50% people respondents said that there is occasional DRR strategy in place to reduce identified risk/threats equally 50 % said there is no strategy at all.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Planning of development wars should be done more meticulously</li> <li>2) The major risk/threats are floods earthquakes and storms.</li> <li>3) Women should be included should be talked to by the local government on significant threats.</li> <li>4) The elderly should be more involved in implementation for action and planning to reduce risk</li> <li>5) DRR strategies should be in place strictly.</li> </ol>
	Sonawan village	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 77% of the local community is not talked to by the local government to access the most significant threats.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</li> </ol>



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		<p>2) 52% of the local community is not involved by the government in the implementation of actions during disasters while 32% of the community feels they are occasionally involved.</p> <p>3) 54% of the respondents said that they do not have access to information from local government for addressing identified risks and threats.</p> <p>4) 58% people said that floods is the major risk/threat</p> <p>5) 20 % feel that there is lack of awareness and education which are barriers for actions while 15.29% feel it is because of community commitment.</p>	<p>2) The local community is not involved in the implementation of actions taken to reduce risk.</p> <p>3) The access to information to the community by the local government is very few during risk/threats</p> <p>4) Flood is the major threat</p> <p>5) Lack of awareness is a barrier in risk to reduce consequences during disasters.</p>
<b>Purnia</b>	Kochelli village	<p>1) 40% of the community is not talked to by the government in plans, policies and actions for disasters</p> <p>2) 28% of the community is not involved by the government in monitoring teams for disasters</p> <p>3) Majority think that ecosystem does contribute to a limited extent to protection of the community during disasters</p> <p>4) 35% feel eco-system based approaches are not taken in consideration in resilience building while 23 % feel they are done to a limited extent.</p> <p>5) The major threats are floods and storms.</p>	<p>1) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</p> <p>2) The community representatives are not involved by the local government to monitor the progress/access in disasters.</p> <p>3) The majority said eco-system do protect them during disasters to some extent.</p> <p>4) Eco-systems are not in place to reduce risk/threats.</p> <p>5) The major risks are floods and storms.</p>
	Surigaon village	<p>1) 30% of the community representatives are not included by the government in monitoring progress towards resilience while 29 % are involved to a limited extent.</p> <p>2) Floods drought and climate change are the major threats.</p> <p>3) Majority think that ecosystem does contribute to a limited</p>	<p>1) The community representatives are not involved by the local government to monitor the progress/access in disasters.</p> <p>2) The major threats are floods and drought.</p> <p>3) The community lacks in awareness and education to</p>



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		<p>extent to protection of the community during disasters</p> <p>4) Majority of the respondents said that the community is not talked to by the government in plans, policies and actions for disasters.</p> <p>5) Majority of the respondents feel that there is lack of awareness and education which are barriers for actions</p>	<p>reduce loss due to risk/threats.</p> <p>4) The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</p> <p>5) Eco-systems are not in place to reduce risk/threats.</p>
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**Picture from communities**



Random HH survey at Sonawan village (Picture by Mahesh Agrawal)



Training of Survey team at ACE Patna Office (photo by Shastri)



FGD at Kochaili village with women (photo by Sudhanshu)



FGD at Kochaili village with men (photo by Sudhanshu)



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## Gujarat

Risk Areas	Communities	Findings	Conclusion
<b>Bhuj city - Urban -</b>	Ward number 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 89% of the local community is not talked to by the local government to access the most significant threats while 19 % is talked to a very limited extent</li> <li>2) 73% of the community is not talked to by the government in plans, policies and actions for disasters while 38% talked to.</li> <li>3) The major threats are drought and earthquakes.</li> <li>4) The major losses are due to economic and livelihoods and building destruction.</li> <li>5) The major barriers are unplanned urbanization, lack of governance, lack of preparedness and lack of early warning systems.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the community is not talked to access the most significant risk/threat</li> <li>2)The local government is not talking to the community on actions taken during risks/threats.</li> <li>3) The major threats are drought and earthquakes.</li> <li>4) The major losses are economic and building destructions.</li> <li>5) Due to unplanned urbanization and lack of governance lead to more destructions.</li> </ol>
<b>Patan district - Rural</b>	Kathi village	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 75 % of the community is not talked to by the government to access the most the most significant threats</li> <li>2) Majority of the community feel that they are involved to a limited by the local government extent in reducing risk/threats during disasters.</li> <li>3) The major consequences are economic and livelihood loss and spreading of diseases and health issues.</li> <li>4) The major threats are changing rainfall patterns, rainfall and heat wave.</li> <li>5) Majority of the respondents said that they have limited access to local government information about actions to reduce risk/threats</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the community is not talked to access the most significant risk/threat</li> <li>2) The community is not involved entirely by local government in reducing risk/threats</li> <li>3) The major concerns are economic and livelihood loss.</li> <li>4) The major risk are changing rainfall pattern and heat wave.</li> <li>5) The access to information to the community by the local government is very few during risk/threats.</li> </ol>



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<b>Banashkantha district – Rural</b>	Katediya village	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Majority think that they are not talked to when plans/ actions are prepared to reduce risk/threats</li> <li>2) Majority of the respondents feel that the community representatives are not involved in monitoring progress in resilience building.</li> <li>3) The major threats are drought, earthquakes and floods.</li> <li>4) 32% said that they do not have access to information from local government about the action taken to reduce risk/threats.</li> <li>5) There is no or limited consideration on disasters on local development plans.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the community is not talked to access the most significant risk/threat</li> <li>2) The community is not involved entirely by local government in reducing risk/threats.</li> <li>3) The major threats are drought, earthquakes and floods.</li> <li>4) The access to information to the community by the local government is very few during risk/threats.</li> <li>5) There is no consideration on risk during development planning.</li> </ol>
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### Picture and Quotations from communities



Quotation:

Education on preparedness among women and children covering climate related risks is highly needed.

FGD, Community: Bhuj Ward Number 3, Urban site, INDIA.  
Photo Credit: AIDMI



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Quotation:

Food and nutrition security, and WASH components came into priority among women group of the village.

FGD, Community: Kathi village,  
Rural site, INDIA.  
Photo Credit: AIDM



Quotation:

Preparing young children against emerging climate risk should be in focus for organisations and policy makers. It is not only limited to protection of people, it is also poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Shilpaben Thakor,  
Anganwadi Worker (Child Care  
Centre), Katediya village, INDIA.  
Rural site, Photo Credit: AIDMI



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## Findings and conclusion at National level

FINDINGS	CONCLUSIONS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The major risks are floods, earthquakes, drought, cyclones and storms.</li> <li>2) The major consequences are economic and livelihood loss, loss of life and crop damage as said the majority of the respondents..</li> <li>3) The major barriers are health conditions and lack of policies.</li> <li>4) The community is not talked to by the local government access the major threats</li> <li>5) The local government does not talk to the community when preparing plans, actions or polices to reduce the threats/risks .</li> <li>6) Majority of the respondents said that there are no designated offices/structures to access or address risk/threats.</li> <li>7) Majority of the responses were in negative on DRR strategies in place to address risk/threats</li> <li>8) The majority said that there s increase risk/threats due to private or public development.</li> <li>9) The majority of the community said that ecosystem does not help in reducing risk/threat to the community</li> <li>10) Majority said that there is no ecosystem based approaches used in community resilience building.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The major disasters are floods, earthquakes, drought, cyclones and storms.</li> <li>2) The major consequences are economic losses and loss of life for which major DRR strategies should be implemented.</li> <li>3) There is a lack of basic health condition and lack of policies which act as an hindrance to reduce or address risk/threats.</li> <li>4) The community is not talked to access the major threats which should be done regularly.</li> <li>5) The local government does not talk to the community while preparing plans/actions or polices to reduce threats which also should be done including the community.</li> <li>6) There are no offices /buildings to acess or address risk /threats . The offices are an absolute necessarily.</li> <li>7) There are no DRR policies/strategies to address risk/threats, which should be in place.</li> <li>8) There is increase in risk/threats due to private or public level developmental works.</li> <li>9) The community need to be educated on eco-system's role in protecting their community during risk/threats.</li> <li>10) There should be more eco-system based approaches to reduce risk/threats.</li> </ol>



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## **Prioritised conclusion at the Community level**

The prioritized conclusions at community level are summarised below:

### **Major risk/Threats**

The major threats are floods, earthquakes, droughts, cyclones, landslides and storms.

### **Local Government support:**

The local Government has initiated schemes and programmes for disaster management. Lack of awareness of Government schemes restricts communities to get help at the time of need. The Government also prepare action plan with focus on preventive measure in consultation with the communities. Capacity building plan should be embedded in the action plan. The local government should involve the community in plans/actions to reduce risk/threats.

### **Early warning system:**

Community lacks information on disasters, like flood, storm water and earthquake. The information gaps restrict themselves to take-up preventive action and even plan mitigation. The early warning system for natural disasters to enable individuals and communities vulnerable by a hazard to prepare and to act in timely to reduce the possibility of any harm.

### **Capacity building on preparedness and mitigation actions:**

Capacitating individuals and communities on disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels in disaster-prone areas with knowledge and skills will help to manage and reduce disaster risk within the risk areas.

### **Formation of committee at local level:**

Local community-based organisation and committees can understand the disaster risks efficiently. These organisation or committees could also support the local communities during the human induced disasters as well. Training of the organisation or committees on possible risks will also help in managing the disaster on preparedness and mitigation actions.

### **Engage civil society organisation:**

Local and specialised Civil Society Organisation should be engaged for capacity enhancement of the communities and local committees for adaptive and mitigation support. Community consultation process should be followed before capacity building and action plan development in the risk areas.

### **Disaster Preparedness:**

Fostering empowerment of the community through various awareness and sensitization programmes at the community level will be one of the key strategies for making prepared individuals from the communities and different stakeholders. Mainly such programs will be focused on earthquake basics and potential/existing risks in the target areas, earthquake preparedness and risk reduction measures, ways to respond during and after earthquake, pre-



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positioning emergency supplies, acquiring life-saving skills, safer construction and other related issues.

**Formation of empowered communities:**

Realizing the fact that in case of any disaster situation, the first responder is the victim himself/herself then the family and the community it is of utmost importance to provide Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment trainings. These trainings aim to make empower individuals and enhance awareness and skills of the community on the associated hazards and vulnerabilities; prepositioning the emergency supplies; making response plans; and make capable to cope with disasters using locally available resources

Formation of local based committees such as Village Disaster Risk Management committees and Task Force group and providing them with trainings on DRR will help them in mitigating the risk during Disaster. Strengthening of communities in the aspects of warning system, preparedness through trainings and awareness is a must for they are the first responders to any kind of disaster

**Contingency planning:**

Contingency planning will help the community to understand the risk and respond to disaster quickly and efficiently. The contingency plan to be in sync with the government / panchayat contingency plan.

**Networking, Coordination and Advocacy:**

The selected states have considerably good Disaster Management mechanism at different levels and quite an active and vibrant. But what is important is how that gets percolated upto the ground and it reached the community at the last mile.

Low cost earthquake resilient structures using locally available resources can be a solution for this problem with proper trainings and model demonstrations.

Recycling and/or disposal of waste materials is very much crucial and low-cost strategies need to be introduced for better management of waste at the household level.

**Social inclusion:**

Social Inclusion is a proactive strategy to put the vulnerable groups and communities on par with other groups that are better placed in accessing the benefits. It seeks to render justice to these vulnerable groups by being fair to them in a way that they will have equal access to the opportunities, resources, services and institutions to develop themselves and be mainstreamed.



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## **Prioritised Conclusions at the National level**

### **Major risk/Threats**

The major threats are floods, earthquakes, droughts, cyclones, landslides and storms.

### **Government support:**

The community is not talked to access the major threats which should be done regularly. There are no offices /buildings to access or address risk /threats. The offices are an absolute necessity. There are no DRR policies/strategies to address risk/threats, which should be in place.

### **Engage civil society organisation:**

Local/ National and specialised Civil Society Organisation should be engaged for capacity enhancement of the communities and local committees for adaptive and mitigation support. Community consultation process should be followed before capacity building and action plan development in the risk areas.

### **Disaster Preparedness:**

Actions:

- Understanding Risk
- Inter-Agency Coordination
- Investing in DRR
- Capacity Development
- Early Warning, Maps, Satellite inputs, Information Dissemination
- Evacuation of People and Animals
- Search and Rescue of People and Animals
- Medical Care
- Drinking Water/ Dewatering Pumps/ Sanitation Facilities/ Public Health
- Food & Essential Supplies
- Communication
- Housing and Temporary Shelters

### **Social inclusion:**

Social Inclusion should be a mainstream strategy to include the vulnerable groups and communities at par with other groups that are better placed in accessing the benefits. It seeks to render justice to these vulnerable groups by being fair to them in a way that they will have equal access to the opportunities, resources, services and institutions to develop themselves and be mainstreamed.



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## Next steps

Formation of the local based committees at the community level and strengthening on DRR and Awareness raises education and training at all level scan be taken up in support of Government and Civil society.

Community participation is the most effective element in achieving sustainability in dealing with natural and man-made disaster risks. Sustainable development and disaster reduction are essential preconditions for each other. Natural disasters severely hamper the progress and achievements of sustainable development while, at the same time, physical infrastructure that we are constructing may itself constitute a source of risk in the event of future disasters. This is particularly true in the case of earthquakes, where the majority of victims are killed by their own collapsing houses. From the perspectives of environmental degradation, human intervention, and security aspects, disaster management is a pressing issue for all of us and should be undertaken on a comprehensive basis. The approach seeks communities at risk to get engaged in all of its phases: prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. In order to build disaster resilient communities, they need to be empowered first so that community members can cope with the adverse effects of natural hazards. This is the most effective approach to achieving sustainability in dealing with natural disaster risks. Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority is carrying out various community-based programmers to establish disaster prevention as an essential component of sustainable development. Its activities include improvement of the safety levels of core community facilities such as schools; dissemination of best practices in disaster risk management at the community level; and formulation of integrated programmers for sustainable development through disaster risk management programmer initiatives. The paper presents analysis and some findings of those programs which engage communities to deal with disaster risks.



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**Dr Ambika Prasad Nanda**  
Member – Chair, National Advisory Committee

It gives me immense pleasure to write this testimony that the study / research undertaken by GNDR to capture the voices and imagination of the people who have been experiencing disasters in recent years, is going to create a new narrative to address their issues and vulnerabilities. The co-creation of knowledge having both researchers and the affected population gives a clear idea that the policy framework needs to have a strong background of the experiential knowledge from the field. This study has rightfully brought on board the change makers, who have been working on the issues of disaster risk reduction programmes in India. The study sample captures the geographic spread and also the diversity of community based experiences.

Needless to mention that climate change is the real problem of our generation. It has started impacting on millions of people and no more categorized as a distant threat. In another sense it can be said that it is the most defining development issue. Development action and activities are targeted about expanding human potential and enlarging human freedom, but the regular disasters are impacting badly on communities and eroding their capabilities on every day basis. The issues are about people, developing the capabilities that empower them to make choices and to lead lives that they value and to make this happen, the experiences of the people can never be discounted.

Warm Wishes,

Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda

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## Annexes:

### 1. National Advisory Committee members

GNDR – VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE 2019	
National Advisory Committee Members' List	
1.	<b>Dr Manu Gupta</b> – SEEDS – Co-founder and Director
2.	<b>Ms Neelam Makhijani</b> – Child Fund – Country Director, India
3.	<b>Mr Mihir R. Bhatt</b> - All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) – Director
4.	<b>Mr Sanjay Vashist</b> – Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) – Director
5.	<b>Mr Anil K. Sinha</b> –Bihar State Disaster Management Authority – former Vice Chair
6.	<b>Ms Bharati Chakra</b> – Help Age India – State Head, Odisha
7.	<b>Ms Abha Mishra</b> – UNDP - State Head, Odisha
8.	<b>Dr Ambika Prasad Nanda</b> – Tata Steel CSR Head – Odisha
9.	<b>Mr Sushant Verma</b> – Trickle Up – Asia Regional Director
10.	<b>Mr Vinod Menon</b> – National Disaster Management Authority – Founding member
11.	<b>Ms Itishree Kanungo</b> – Climate Parliament – State Head Odisha
12.	<b>Prof Vinod Kumar Sharma</b> – Vice Chair, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority



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## 2. Details about Partner Organisations

S I	Name of the POs	Address	Email	Contact No
1	AIDMI	All India Disaster Management Institute 411-412,SAKAR-V Building, Nr.Mithakhali Railway Crossing, B/h. Natraj cinema, Ashram Road. Ahmedabad 380009, Gujarat	<a href="mailto:vishalp@aidmi.org">vishalp@aidmi.org</a>	
2	ACE	Action for Community Empowerment Raj Villa, H. No. 99/A, Road No. 1/E (behind church lane) New PatliputraColony, Patna – 800013, Bihar	<a href="mailto:aceindia.org@gmail.com">aceindia.org@gmail.com</a>	9386614952
3	NYSASDRI	National Youth Service Action and Social Development Research Institute At-Santhatasara, Po-Santhatapur Via- Gondia, Dist- Dhenkanal-759016	<a href="mailto:nysasdri@yahoo.com">nysasdri@yahoo.com</a>	8249173296
4.	IGSSS	Indo Global Social Service Society 28, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003	Email-ed@igsss.net	+91-11- 457050000



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