

## **Flood Rehabilitation Programme 2008**

*A Humanitarian Response by ICICI Group  
Companies, Employees and Customers*

**Programme Status Report, Third Quarter (October to December 2009)**

### **The Disaster:**

*There was water everywhere. For days we lived only on hope- that the water will recede, that we will go home...with every passing day, our hopes only turned into despair as we worried about the future, about our farms, about our children...*

- Gurubari Danpat, a farmer from Gobgoan, Balasore District, Orissa

A flood is so much more than a physical event. While it overwhelms with its ruthless strength as it hits, impacts linger long after the water has receded. It continues to cripple life long after the newspapers stop reporting about it.

### **The Response:**

In the aftermath of the floods in 2008, the ICICI Group initiated a series of humanitarian programs in the affected districts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. The response also included a comprehensive rehabilitation programme that completed its third quarter in December 2009.

### **The Method and the Mantra: Resilience**

The ICICI Group worked through ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth ([www.icicifoundation.org](http://www.icicifoundation.org)) and its strategic partner, CSO Partners ([www.csopartners.org.in](http://www.csopartners.org.in)), to design the flood rehabilitation programme. The programme's design evolved through a process of extensive ideation and consultation with multiple stakeholders, and focused on the core idea of resilience. While nature will remain unpredictable, strengthening the capacity of communities to deal with the consequences of natural disasters can reduce the harm they cause. For this reason, the programme has undertaken initiatives to:

- Protect the vulnerable through child protection initiatives
- Create enduring structures by supporting communities in shelter development and reconstruction
- Restore and rebuild livelihoods by supporting community members to undertake livelihood activities that are economically viable and ecologically sustainable
- Facilitate community-based disaster preparation by empowering communities to develop their own plans for disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Expand the scope of the programme by introducing complementary programmes such as rural sanitation and advocacy for safe school

### **The Scale:**

The programmes are being implemented through 18 partner NGOs in 425 of the most severely affected villages across the three states. The programme has been financed with contributions mobilised by the ICICI Group amounting to Rs. 138 million.

## REBUILDING LIVES, RESHAPING HOPES

### PROGRESS DURING THE THIRD QUARTER (OCT-DEC 2009)

#### PROTECT THE VULNERABLE: CHILD PROTECTION INITIATIVES

*Can I go back to my school? I do not know...will I have to start earning?*

*-Verendra Kumar, 10 years, Miragarh, Madhepura District, Bihar*

Disasters do not impact all community members in the same way. Some are more vulnerable than others. It is important therefore to identify the vulnerable and undertake interventions designed to meet their specific needs. Children, for example, are vulnerable to being taken out of school to work to support their families. Girls are more likely to face discrimination when their families are confronted with mounting economic pressures.

In order to meet the needs of children in the community, the programme supports the following initiatives:

**a) *Joining hands: children's group (CGs) and Child Protection Committees (CPCs)***

- ***In the school:*** School-based children's groups (CGs):

- *160 school-based children's groups are active across the three states and are developing school safety plans*
- *CGs regularly meet the Gram Panchayat representatives to raise children-focused issues such as link road construction to school and drinking water supply in school premises*
- *CGs participate in Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (PVCA) and resource mapping of the village to identify disaster-related risks and resources within the community*

- **Children's groups in important events**

- A week-long series of activities took place in all three states to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 20 November 2009. The children took part in rallies, participated in meetings and workshops at the district and state levels.

Progress of CGs and CPCs across three States		
Beneficiary / programme	During Quarters I & II	During Quarter III
# of children enrolled in children's groups	6,700	8,939
# of CPCs received training on CPIE	30	130
# of CPIEs initiated by CPCs	26	76



School children rally on National Disaster Risk Reduction Day on October 20, 2009 in Orissa

- Around 20,000 children have signed a charter of demands which has been submitted to the District Magistrates and the Additional Principal Secretaries in the Departments of Disaster Management in the three states. The charter lists the basic rights and fundamental needs for integrated development of children.
- Participated in events such as the National Disaster Risk Reduction day on 29th October 2009
- Undertook awareness generating and reconstructive programmes: Planted around 7,500 seedlings across 150 villages in Bihar. Partner organisations procured saplings from government nurseries and provided them to each Children's group
- Undertook rallies, meetings and workshops on "child-centric disaster risk reduction" in the flood-prone zones of Orissa and West Bengal.



**Children's Group in the DRR Mapping exercise in Orissa**

- ***In the villages:*** Village-level Child Protection Committees (CPCs)
  - CPCs have developed Community-Based Plans for Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIEs)
  - Building on the village-level capacity building initiatives, 76 CPCs in Bihar have developed CPIEs, which have been presented to the Gramshabas
  - CPCs have taken up child protection issues such as eradication of child labour and child marriage
  - Around 12 of 30 CPCs have participated in Panchayat-level surveys on school drop outs resulting from child labour in West Bengal

***b) Training and capacity building for teachers and children:***

- **School-based capacity building programme on disaster response:** Teachers and students across eight schools in Orissa have been equipped with skills to undertake emergency response during disasters. Resource persons from the civil defence sector with experience and expertise in conducting rescue operations have trained the teachers and the students. The following task forces have been formed for action during disasters:
  - *Search and rescue task force*
  - *First aid task force*
  - *Fire safety task force*
  - *Warning and awareness task force and*
  - *Evacuation task force*

**School Safety Clubs** are being formed to sustain the disaster preparedness activities. These clubs will undertake initiatives to ensure that children with disabilities are in the programme.

***Not a Raja Rani ki Kahani:***

***A case study on child marriage in Bihar***

The date was set for Rani (not her real name). She was only 13 and studying in Kasturba Residential School in Dabrak village in Bihar. Her father had physical disabilities and worked as a carpenter to make ends meet. With five children, he was worried about one of his 'primary responsibilities' – getting his daughter married at the earliest. When a proposal for Rani's marriage came his way, he considered it in the best interest of the family to agree.

Rani was upset, but had to relent as she had little voice in the family decisions. Marriage was her 'contribution' to the family by relieving her parents from the responsibility of having to look after her. However, she discussed the issue with her friends, some of whom were members of a Children's Group (CG), and they informed the field animator of Dabrak village about the impending marriage. The CG members called for an emergency meeting of Child Protection Committee (CPC) members to discuss the issue.

The CPC and CG members spoke to the girl and her family and counselled them on the impact of getting young girls married. The family of the prospective bridegroom was also contacted and counselled on the detrimental effects of early marriage on the well being of families. The village elders and opinion leaders were motivated to influence the families to change their decision. After several rounds of discussions, both families agreed to postpone the marriage until the girl turned 18 years old.

What was important in the case was that the presence of the CG and CPC provided a forum for the child to voice her anguish. Also, she was supported by a group, an institution, to take up the issue with the elders. While it is easy to ignore a single child, a group has strength. When the CGs took up the issue of their peer, they could not be brushed aside.

The issue also helped the children to think about and engage with such complex issues as gender, patriarchy, the play of socio-economic and cultural dynamics resulting in a value system that perceives girls as 'liabilities' and rationalises early marriage, the weakness of the legal system in curbing the programme and the need for a 'bottom-up' approach to the problem.

Encouraged by their success, the CPC is tackling the issue at the district level by participating in a district-level campaign against early marriage. The district administration, the police and the local Panchayats have begun to support their efforts.

**School Disaster Management Plans** are now in place in all eight project schools, to enable planned and effective rescue.

The schools have conducted **a series of mock drill exercises** for dealing with hazards such as fire, floods and cyclone.

**Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials** have been developed and disseminated in the schools in Orissa to generate awareness about local hazards and safety measures.

**School safety kits** consisting of posters, card games, school disaster management plan guides and planners have been prepared.



School children attending First Aid Orientation Camp in Bagada, Orissa

## BEYOND RELIEF: BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### a) *Village Disaster and Risk Management Teams (VDRMT)*

VDRMTs have been formed in 150 villages in Bihar. These are frontline teams in charge of developing and establishing community-based disaster preparedness plans and leading rehabilitation and restoration measures when disaster strikes. In Bihar, 18 VDRMTs contribute Rs. 5-10 per month towards a “Disaster Mitigation Fund” for risk management. The money is being used to maintain the grain bank, fodder bank and fuel bank. The funds are also used to maintain boats and to procure ropes and other necessary materials.

In an unlikely innovation, the grain banks are rented out as community halls in the village. The funds mobilised are used to repair and upgrade the structure.

During the third quarter, these VDRMTs have been oriented on:

- *Management and upkeep of the food, fodder and fuel banks*
- *Construction and usage of toilets and hand hygiene practices*
- *Special care and catering to parents of infants, pregnant women and lactating mothers*



Meeting of Village level Disaster and Management Team (VDMT) in Muraliganj, Bihar

## ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

### Non-farming sector:

#### a) Livelihood restoration

**Hands-on skill building trainings on viable trades** have been undertaken to expand the choice of possible economic activities that people can engage in. The trades have been chosen after discussions with community members and careful analysis of local market trends and demands.

Around 3000 people have been trained in a variety of skills such as masonry, carpentry, cycle repair, tailoring, etc., building on their interests, existing skill sets and experience. Toolkits have also been provided to those trained to start their enterprise.

Trade	No. of beneficiaries who received training (3 states)	No. of beneficiaries who received toolkits (3 states)
Mason	500	400
Kitchen gardening	975	675
Chattai-Mat making	123	123
Potter material	62	62
Basket making	49	49
Carpentry	177	142
Cycle repair	71	71
Tailoring	153	122
Small vendor	456	413
Industry Housekeeping & Labour	2212	2212
Painting	200	175
Farming	376	324

#### b) Support to SHG women

In Bihar, around 150 women from self-help groups (SHGs) have been given entrepreneurial training on various income generating and livelihood ensuring activities such as vegetable farming and vending, jute bag making, tailoring and selling stitched garments, etc.

These activities were chosen after an analysis of market demands for the trades and keeping in mind the diversity of trades in the context of the villages.



SHG members displaying their beneficiary cards registered under the Need Based Livelihood Support programmes in Bihar

#### c) Augmenting civic infrastructure:

The flooding badly damaged the water points and sanitation arrangements that had been in place in the affected areas. The rehabilitation programme has converted this into an opportunity to develop high quality civic infrastructure in the area.



A view of new hand pump installed under the programme for augmentation of drinking water supply in villages in Bihar

Building on a three-day intensive capacity building programme in Bihar, 47 masons have been trained in

developing and standardising skills in construction of raised pit toilets, hand pump platforms and hand pump repairs. Subsequently, these masons have been engaged to install five new hand pumps, repair 40 defunct hand pumps and construct platforms for 40 functional hand pumps in the affected villages. The programme thus had twin benefits: 1) income generating skills for the masons and 2) availability of community based resource persons for local needs.

#### d) Rural sanitation

In Bihar, four Rural Sanitation Marts have been set up to promote and implement safe and hygienic practices. As a part of the programme, the following practices have been promoted:

- *Use of sanitary items:* toilet pans, long handle ladle
- *Toilet cleaning provisions:* phenyl, brush and broom, buckets
- *Personal hygiene:* nail cutters, soap and soap case



Rural women artisans taking part in Design Development Workshop in Orissa

Small as they may seem, these are some of the most critical factors that determine the overall health of the community. Behaviour change around these key health and hygiene issues are important components of the programme. In two villages, community toilets are being built by masons who were trained through the project.

#### e) Assets and capacity restoration for rural artisans

Disasters have a big impact on local artisans, depleting their meagre resources. Often they are unable to return to their traditional craft or trade, and instead join the mass of unskilled labour. To prevent this, the programmes in Orissa were designed to support the rural artisan engaged in coir, appliqué and golden grass trades.

**A business operations and market readiness** workshop was held at Bhubaneshwar in the third quarter. The trainings focused on:

- *Business operations and systems*

#### Common Facility Centre

In response to the floods and destruction of livelihoods, a collaborative effort was undertaken by Darbar Sahitya Sangsad, Orissa, with support from Sarba Shanti Ayog (Sasha), CSO Partners and Give India. In order to restore livelihoods and build capacities, a 1200 sq. ft. Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Balipatna block is being developed as a production cum training centre with all basic necessary infrastructure. The local implementation partner identified the area for restoration of physical assets and capacity building.

The CFC would also store material like golden grass that is harvested annually, reducing the vulnerability of the artisans involved in golden grass craft to raw material wastage/shortage.

Given its location in a flood-prone area, the CFC would also act as a high rise shelter that can house approximately 500 community members during and after a disaster.

Finally, it will not just help restore physical assets but also strengthen craft enterprises. It will also facilitate self-employment and provide space for business development to the artisans.

- *Fair Trade Compliance and awareness of the Sustainable Fair Trade Management System (Fair Trade certification)*
- *Producer Group Intervention - an ongoing capacity building programme for enhancing business performance and Fair Trade compliance of the producers.*

**Construction of a Common Facility Centre (CFC)** has been initiated in the last quarter (October to December 2009) to provide infrastructure support and working space for about 50 to 60 artisans whose working stations were completely devastated during the floods.

As a promotional effort, design development workshops were conducted for 18 artisans in Orissa and Kolkata. The rural artisans participated in a four-day exhibition jointly organised by Fair Trade Forum and SASHA in Kolkata. Stalls were also put up for market promotion.

## 2. Farming sector

**a) Rehabilitation of farmers:** The last quarter saw the grouping of poor and marginal farmers into Farmer Clubs (FCs). In the last quarter, 30 such FCs had been formed in Bihar.

In the present quarter, diesel pumps have been provided to eight such clubs. Under the programme, each farmer pays Rs. 5 – 10, depending on the size of the farm using the pump. The fees also cover the price of diesel and maintenance of the pumps.

**b) Cattle health camps** have been organised in 20 villages in Bihar. The camps have helped in treatment and immunization of around 2000 cattle. The concept builds on the traditional practice of cattle fairs, taking it a step further to address the health needs of the livestock.

### c) Seed fair

A Seed Fair (Kisan Mela) took place in 50 villages across the three states. The fair, attended by over 3000 farmers, provided an opportunity for the farmers to interact among themselves.

Distribution of Seeds during 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	
State	No. of farmers who received seed packets and tool kits
Orissa	2000
Bihar	840
West Bengal	184

This facilitated cross learning as they shared information and insights on cropping patterns, methods and use of seeds with other farmers.

Various types and qualities of seeds of paddy, wheat, maize and pulses were displayed at the fair. Vegetables seeds were also distributed to the farmers. The early and late varieties of paddy and wheat were greatly appreciated. The fair also brought together scientific expertise of the State Agriculture Department and KVK (Krishi Vigyan Kendra) with the traditional wisdom of the farmers.

## SHELTER DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION

### a) Restructuring schools and educational facilities

The primary focus of this programme is to use specialised construction technology for building disaster resistant structures in the most severely affected villages, with a special emphasis on schools.

**Eight multipurpose shelters** are being developed by upgrading schools in Orissa. These will act as “Emergency Refuge Shelters” and will be equipped with Emergency Rescue Kits, Emergency First Aid Kits and relief materials. These shelters can serve as model structures that can be replicated elsewhere.

The construction meets the national building code standards for disaster resistant design and thermal comfort. The community is involved through “hands-on” training in making disaster resilient design, decision making with respect to layout of physical structures and developing guidelines for managing the shelters.



View of a model school structure under the School Reconstruction project in Orissa

## KEY LEARNING

Nine months into the programme is a good time to reflect on what has been learned. In the present quarter, Sphere India, the coordinating partner of CSO Partners, organised a workshop on Inter-agency Coordination and Unified Response System (URS) to share experiences amongst the implementing partners. The key learning and plans for future that were identified in the workshop are:

**Coordination between agencies:** The impact of disasters is felt locally. Interventions therefore should also start at the local level. The pilot district-level coordination committees in Bihar (districts: Madhepura, Darbhanga, Purnea, Araria, Supaul) facilitated by Sphere India, CSO Partners and ACTED India, highlight the effectiveness of collaborative efforts in managing disasters.

Building on this, efforts have been initiated in Karwar, Bijapur, Raichur, Bellary, Bagalkot and Hubli districts of Karnataka and in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh for setting up district-level coordination mechanisms during disasters. There are also plans to scale up interagency coordination mechanisms to the national level.

**Disaster preparedness:** Given that the programme operates in disaster-prone areas, it is important to strengthen the disaster preparedness both at the institutional level and the community level. There is a need for increased Government -NGO coordination at the district and state levels even during regular times. Regular disaster preparedness meetings can help in effective coordination and control. These can focus on timely information collection, surveillance and prior warning systems and can develop mechanisms for disseminating information quickly throughout the community.

**Mapping:** In order to avoid duplication of efforts, Sphere India has taken the lead in carrying out a mapping exercise. The initiative would use Geographic Information System and plan interventions based on the presence of NGOs, geographic area, population coverage, skills and resources available for an effective and well-coordinated disaster response. This has been

piloted during the floods in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and also during cyclone *Aila* in West Bengal.

**Capacity building:** The Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) formed at the state level and the district partners have identified capacity building needs. These include knowledge and skills that would strengthen disaster response. The specific areas include: multi-sectoral assessments, incident command systems (ICS), documentation of good practices, management of humanitarian logistics, ethics, quality and accountability tools, relief management and Sphere India standards.

**Annexure No. 1: Consolidated and translated version of Children's Charter of Demands**

After holding consultations with 70 children's groups (CGs) in 70 villages in Orissa, the children have developed a charter of demands.

*"We are submitting this charter of demands to the district administration and hope that today, on the day of National Children's Day, our demands will be used as objectives to be achieved before the next National Children's Day. We are children, and our voices are not as easily heard, yet we still expect our adults and our government to listen to and respect our views. We want our rights and this is a list of what we are demanding."*

- We don't want to work from an early age. Please ensure that we are not forced to by punishing people who employ us
- We want to receive quality education. Please provide us with good schools and good teachers who come regularly
- We want our teachers to be friendly and not beat us or punish us
- We want nutritious and warm cooked food in the school
- We want safe schools that have roofs, benches, chalkboards, adequate numbers of classrooms and libraries
- We want to be involved in Panchayat meetings so that adequate attention is given to our needs like schools, midday meals, drinking water, our health services and our protection
- We want the district administration to involve us when they review school education programmes, the Midday Meal programmes, etc., so that we can voice our actual needs.
- We want children's groups to be formed in every village so that children can raise their voices against any forms of violence, neglect, harm and protection concerns.
- We want government officials to consult us from time to time. As our parents expect their voices to be heard, we also expect that the District Magistrate spends time hearing our needs and concerns.
- Often our parents can't afford to buy our textbooks, uniforms and any additional charges for activities such as teachers' day. Please ensure that we do get school supplies.
- We want qualified doctors to visit us in the school regularly