

INDIA

Orissa Disaster Management Programmes

Disaster Context

The unique geo-climatic conditions of Orissa make the Indian state vulnerable to various natural hazards. Coastal districts are prone to floods and cyclones, while drought is particularly frequent and severe in the western districts of the state.

In response to a super cyclone that struck Orissa in 1999, UNDP and other UN organisations provided a coordination support mechanism during the crisis and facilitated interventions in the following sectors: shelter, agriculture, health, education, women and children, and water and sanitation. In the rehabilitation phase, UNDP supported the state government in specific rehabilitation efforts promoting community participation in shelter and livelihood sectors with the objective of reducing vulnerability. Subsequently, community preparedness plans were formulated. These plans were used by the communities and the government to take precautionary action during the cyclone threat of 2000. The generation of awareness in the state also helped the communities to be better prepared during the 2001 floods.

Project Titles

- Orissa Super Cyclone (IND/99/912)
- Orissa Habitat Development Project (IND/00/007)
- Orissa Floods Livelihood Restoration (IND/01/H08)
- Orissa Breach Closure Project (IND/01/H12)
- Western Orissa Drought Relief Project (IND/01/002)
- Orissa Disaster Management Project (IND/01/004)
- Strengthening Disaster Management Capacity (IND/01/011)
- Community Shelter (IND/02/005)
- Promotion of Appropriate Housing Technologies and Opportunities for Sustainable Livelihoods in Orissa (IND/02/010)

Sectors

- Community-based disaster preparedness
- Alternative technology in housing for hazard mitigation
- Information technology in disaster preparedness and response
- Health and multi-disease surveillance
- Drought mitigation through decentralized planning in drought-proofing
- Livelihood recovery
- Volunteerism for disaster preparedness

Funding

- Swiss Development Cooperation: \$694,324
- UK Department for International Development: \$3,732,539
- CARE (Private Sector): \$47,421
- Norwegian Government: \$50,000

Partners

- Orissa Disaster Mitigation Authority, Government of Orissa
- Swiss Development Cooperation
- Department of Panchayati Raj, Government of Orissa
- Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Orissa
- Department of Water Resources, Norwegian Government
- United Nations Volunteers
- DFID
- FAO
- WHO

Programme Activities

- Preparation of multi-hazard response plans at village-, panchayat-, block- and district-level, and formation and training of disaster management teams at all levels; There was an additional focus on promoting the involvement of women
- Developing skills of engineers and masons in disaster-resistant, cost-effective housing technologies; demonstration of the technologies through model community centres and training manuals, on cost-effective construction technologies, leaflets, posters and pamphlets for mass campaign
- Setting up disaster information centres with Internet-linked computers for weather tracking and capturing the resource inventory for effective disaster response
- Setting up of more than 80 information kiosks to facilitate access to information for more than 80,000 people, and launching of the Government of Orissa portal by a team of UNVs (www.aamagaon.com)
- Sensitisation and capacity-building of all levels of health personnel on disease surveillance for early detection and prevention of outbreaks and epidemics
- Construction of community-based rainwater harvesting and utilization structures as identified in village micro-plans, and selection and training of the multidisciplinary volunteers in community-based drought proofing initiatives
- Repair of eight kilometre-long saline embankment in the most affected 32 villages of coastal Orissa, supporting 6,000 affected families.
- Formation and training of Orissa emergency volunteer force and promotion of volunteer activities