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## Disaster Management Community



## Community Update

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### From the Resource Team

Dear Friends,

Diwali (festival of lights) is celebrated with joy, along with family and friends by lighting *diyas* and bursting crackers. But, how often are we cautious about environment pollution and accidents that happens due to fire crackers. The percentage of population that adopt "go green" during Diwali, and appreciate the efforts of those adopted and practised it is very low. On the other end, news reported that 2 persons were killed and 1 injured in fire at a house storing crackers in Nalgonda District of Telangana (22.10.14); at least seven people were killed in a fire at a firecracker shop in Barmer district of Rajasthan's (23.10.14), (source: [www.nidm.gov.in](http://www.nidm.gov.in)), nearly 100 people were injured and over 52 fire incidents reported in the city of Jaipur on Diwali night (The Hindu-24.10.14) and the Chandigarh Tribune reported 229 cases of burn injuries and 41 fire incidents in Chandigarh (<http://www.tribuneindia.com/2014/20141025/cth1.htm>). The above news is just a glimpse of the enormity of risks involved in using crackers. Bursting of crackers pollutes the air and according to senior scientist Dr. Gufran Beig at SAFAR, which is jointly run by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and India Meteorological Department (<http://in.reuters.com>) said in relation to Delhi, "The 24-hours average of PM10 was recorded at 427mg per cubic metre and PM2.5 was at 278mpcm, almost five times higher than the prescribed standard of 100mpcm and 60mpcm respectively".

Bursting of crackers lead to external injuries and many are at the risk of respiratory problems, especially those who are Asthmatic and young toddlers. Governments, NGOs and Private Institutions have issued advisories to reduce air and sound pollution and most importantly to conduct injury free Diwali, but unfortunately majority of us don't heed to the advisories, causing irreparable damage to physical health (Eye sight). To reduce injuries and pollution; and to "go green" during Diwali is a herculean task, but addressing the issue is a challenge to all stakeholders.

We also take this opportunity to let you know that the UN Disaster Management of Community of Practice has planned to conduct Annual Forum in the first week of December '2014. The date and venue will be shared shortly and request members to share their views on the subjects that can be discussed and deliberated during the annual forum.

With warm regards,

G. Padmanabhan and Mahendra R,  
Resource Team, Disaster Management Community.

## Members Postings

### Workshops and Conferences

#### Recently Held

From [Mahendra. Rajaram](#) UNDP, New Delhi

UNDMT in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change [MoEF], Government of India organised 3 workshops on 15, 16 and 17 October 2014 at Hotel Park, New Delhi. The 15<sup>th</sup> workshop was on Identification of National Priorities on Climate Change Adaptation in India. The 16<sup>th</sup> workshop was on "Climate Change Adaptation in Drought Affected Areas: Policies, Programmes and Traditional Coping Mechanisms". The 17<sup>th</sup> Workshop was on "Urban Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation: Towards Sustainable Development of Cities. The report of the workshop will be shared with community soon.

#### Upcoming

From [Mahendra. Rajaram](#), UNDP

### International Conference on Environment and Energy Conference

The aim of the conference is to provide a common platform for interaction among the researchers and experts in the fields of Environmental Science & Technology and Alternate Energy Technologies. The proposed conference is from 15th to 17th December 2014 at Hyderabad, Telangana, India. For more details visit Website: <http://www.icee2014.in> .Contact person is Dr. V.Himabindu.

### Seminar: Interdisciplinary National seminar on Human Responses to Environmental Changes in India: Management and Challenges

Environment changes in the world are occurring in various forms. Rising sea level, retreating glaciers, disappearance of islands, shifting rainfall patterns and likewise changes. The extreme weather events will negatively impact crop and animal yields and also agro eco-system resilience. So what is the human response to all these changes?

The Parishkar College of Global Excellence, Jaipur, Rajasthan-India is organising seminar on 23 and 24 January 2015 at the college campus. For more details visit website: <http://www.parishkar.org/pdf/National-Seminar-2015.pdf> or Contact person: Dr.Manoj Kumar Saini at [sainimanoj181@gmail.com](mailto:sainimanoj181@gmail.com) or [nationalseminarjaipur2015@gmail.com](mailto:nationalseminarjaipur2015@gmail.com) or call mobile: 09374048501, 09414304650 and 09314042501.

### Training Opportunities

From [Pozhil](#), RedR India

We are pleased to inform you about our forthcoming trainings which are now open for registration. You can click on the links below to find more information about these training courses.

Sl.No	Name of Training Course	Dates	Venue
1	<a href="#">Monitoring and Evaluating</a>	1-4 December,	New Delhi,

## Community News

### Open Queries

For Discussion: Risk Reduction in Peri-Urban areas in the Context of DRR and CCA- Examples; References. Reply by 14 November 2014. View [here](#) for query details and to respond.

### Consolidate Replies

Analysis of Livelihood Programs during Recovery Phase in Agricultural Sector in Assam. Examples; Experiences, can be viewed at [http://in.one.un.org/img/uploads/SolEx\\_FTP/drm/NIDM-Update-September-2014.doc](http://in.one.un.org/img/uploads/SolEx_FTP/drm/NIDM-Update-September-2014.doc) (348 kb)

### From Our Partners

National Institute for Disaster Management, New Delhi is conducting number of training programs, events and online courses. For more details please visit <http://nidm.gov.in/default.asp>

The Knowledge Network Centre on floods and Water - logging at IIT Kanpur is supported by UNDP and AusAid. The focus of the knowledge centre is on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with special reference to Bihar and Odisha. View the website for details <http://www.iitk.ac.in/waterwoes/index.html>

	<a href="#">Humanitarian Responses</a>	2014	India
2	<a href="#">Children in Emergencies</a>	8-12 December, 2014	Kathmand u, Nepal

Please feel free to contact us for any clarifications. For more details on our trainings and training calendar, you can visit us at <http://www.redr.org.in/> or call us at Mobile: +91 9011073660

### **Job Opportunities**

*From [Mayank Aggarwal](#), UNDP, India*

**Vacancy** : State Project Officer  
**Organization** : UNDP  
**Location** : Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
**Closing Date** : 9 November 2014  
**Web link** : [www.in.undp.org](http://www.in.undp.org) (Careers). Also visit the below link [http://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job\\_Id=40245](http://www.devnetjobsindia.org/JobDescription.aspx?Job_Id=40245)

### **Key topic for the Community Update Issue No: 126**

*From [Mahendra. Rajaram](#) UNDP, New Delhi*

"Investing in disaster risk reduction reduces the vulnerability of people to hazards and helps break the vicious cycle of poverty. We need to engage the micro finance community into a dialogue on reducing the impact of natural hazards on populations and livelihoods ". "Micro finance is a successful tool to empower women to help reduce their poverty and therefore, their vulnerability to disasters." Salvano Briceño, director of the UNISDR secretariat.

About 5 case studies related to vulnerability, disaster and poverty and how micro-finance and co-operative societies have enabled communities to be resilient and addressed poverty. A brief outline of the case studies is listed below and for detailed information on the case studies, please click on <http://www.unisdr.org/2005/campaign/2005-case-studies.htm>

#### **Kenyan droughts: a community based approach with Microcredits. by Jaime Duran, Senior Grant Manager, Africa Department, International Federation of Red Cross.**

Kenya suffers from regular extreme weather events which exacerbate rural poverty, with devastating impact on pastoralists and subsistence farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions of the country. In the last decade alone, drought periods in 91/92, 95/96, and 98/2000, and devastating floods in 1997/98 and again in 2002 in different parts of the country have been recorded. These phenomena have had the cumulative effect of reducing household food availability, purchasing power, and coping capacity, impoverishing the rural population.

#### **Microfinance and disaster preparedness: an innovative approach for housing preventive reinforcement against cyclone and flood damages, Viet Nam. By Canadian International Development Agency**

Over the past decade, Vietnam has been emerging from years of poverty.

### **UN News**

*From [Mahendra Rajaram](#), UNDP, New Delhi*

The United Nations Information Center for India and Bhutan newsletter of September focuss on Fighting Hunger and Poverty and it can be viewed at [http://www.unic.org.in/items/Newsletter\\_Sep2014.pdf](http://www.unic.org.in/items/Newsletter_Sep2014.pdf)

### **Update your Profile!**

Members who wish to update their profile are requested to send us an [email](#) with relevant information. Please refer your colleagues and friends to join the community.

### **Welcome to new Members**

We welcome our new members for joining the DM Community of Practice and look forward for your active participation and contribution for knowledge enhancement.

### **Programs/Conferences**

Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, Kolkata is organising an International Conference on "**Managing Critical Resources: Food, Energy and Water**". The conference dates are: April 9-11, 2015 and venue is IIM Calcutta. For more details on the Conference, write to [cdep2015@iimcal.ac.in](mailto:cdep2015@iimcal.ac.in) and also visit website:

Economic reforms have had a largely positive effect on many families, whilst many activities are increasingly monetised. This growth and change is vital if families and the community are to achieve more stable and better living conditions. In turn, the improvement of family economies is vital for local and regional development. But the often-tenuous improvement in family and commune conditions is frequently eradicated by the destruction caused by the annual round of storms, typhoons and flooding.

<http://cdep.iimcal.ac.in/>

### **Microfinance for Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh By Krishna S. Vatsa**

Microfinance programs are discussed frequently in the context of income generation, productive investment and poverty alleviation. While the jury is still divided on the impact of microfinance on poverty alleviation, its role in risk management and vulnerability reduction has been acknowledged more conclusively. Zeller (2001) identifies two principal pathways, Pathway 1 leads to income smoothing through ex ante measures. Pathway 2 leads to consumption smoothing through provision of consumption credit, withdrawal of savings, and insurance claims. (Pitt and Khandker, 1998; Morduch, 1999).

### **A Road Towards Building Disaster Resilient Communities by: Zenaida Delica –Willison**

"We need to organize a cooperative to help us collectively address our needs when crisis occur" said Petronilo Baes, an elder in Talumpok East, a rural village in Batangas City, south of Manila, Philippines. His sentiment was shared by many other farmers in the village. This was the beginning of the Talumpok Silangan Multipurpose Cooperative (TASIMPCO), which was organized on May 1, 1988.

### **The Experience of SEWA, by Trushna Patel and Reema Nanavaty**

This paper explores the Self Employed Women's Association's (SEWA) experience using microfinance and safety nets to increase disaster resilience among the rural poor of Gujarat, India. Many existing financial tools and safety nets play an important role in reducing the vulnerability of hazard-prone populations, particularly the poorest of the poor.

***Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue!***

*If you have items to feature in this News Update, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community in India at [se-drm@solutionexchange-un.net.in](mailto:se-drm@solutionexchange-un.net.in). In case your email doesn't support viewing this news update, please visit [UNDP India website](http://www.undp.org/india) to read.*

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