

The Five Steps of CBDRM:

1. Sensitisation

Creation of awareness among people about the process of CBDRM, how they can be involved and how they themselves can take initiatives to defend themselves from the wrath of nature. Since CBDRM moves with the community, it is important that every member of the community, beginning with the most to the least vulnerable, is aware of the process of CBDRM and consequently think and act to make the process a success.



2. Collection and Assessment of Village Information and Analysis



After the sensitisation, the ground is prepared to conduct the Participatory Learning and Action exercises or PLA. It is during the sensitisation that the people are informed about the PLA, its need and the benefits that they would reap through the exercises. The PLA helped the villagers to re-discover their village one again. Several tools of PLA were used to collect information on the village. The PLAs were conducted in all the 8 booths covered by the project area. Ramakrishna Mission ensured the participation of the village community in all of these PLA exercises so that it transforms into people's learning and action. The data that emerged out of these exercises offer cross verification by the community were then analysed. And from these analysis evolved the Plan of Action or POA that was presented at the Gram Samad as recommendation to the Panchayat.

3. Plan of Action

This Plan of Action (POA) was drafted and presented at the Gram Samad basically contains the plan of the people of the both with regard to Disaster Risk Reduction. The objective of this POA was to propose measures to reduce the loss of life and property make people more aware and bring the community back to normal life after a disaster strikes.



4. Training and Capacity Building

All the staff had TOT (Training of Trainers) in Kolkata for 7 days on PLA and Task Force etc. and formulation of the POA (Plan of Action). They had a 2 days' initial training and 3 days' follow-up

training on inclusive DRR by Handicap International (HI). One staff from RKM participated in an initial training and a follow-up training by BBC World Service. Trust together with the media persons on the role of the media in disaster management. There were 7 Task Force teams in each of the villages formed as a part of the CBDRM process. The Task Force is a group comprising of both male and female members of a village or a community. The group is formed to assist common mass in emergency and developmental activities. Since Sundarban area is a flood and cyclone prone region the Task Force in this region is formed to work during the flood and cyclone seasons.

5. Mitigation

The mitigation activities under the CBDRM project was aimed at building models that on one hand would inspire the community to take similar initiatives in future and on the other hand it served as a confidence building measure with the community by providing tangible results.

The project envisioned 8 planned mitigation activities in all the four villages of the project area. These mitigation activities were:

1. Approach Road
2. Embankment repairing
3. Mangrove plantation
4. Model Pond
5. Model House
6. Model House
7. Disaster Preparedness Centre
8. Land Shaping

| Mitigation | Mitigation Initiatives at a Glance | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| | Talabjanpur | Kashibharoni | Bengachhal | Shilapur |
| Approach Roads & embankment | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Model Pond | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Model House | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Embankment Repairing | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Mangrove Plantation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Land Shaping | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| DP Centres | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Impacts:

- A section of the people appeared to have become proactive and a mindset for disaster Preparedness seemed to be emerging. People have internalised the concept and process. This proactive mindset can be taken forward.
- The farmers involved in the land shaping have benefitted from higher income since there is a possibility of crop rotation throughout the year. Those who were involved in the work of the embankment and approach roads had the short term employment and income.
- The local NGOs and clubs made Disaster Risk Management Programme a part of their programmes. An example was found in 'Sagar Agricultural Fair' (mela) organised by the 'Chowringhee Palli Umyon Samiti'. 'Environment and Disaster Preparedness' was one of their themes for the activities of the fair.
- School teachers, school students and other educated person of the community have become community oriented when they become members of DMC and especially members of the task forces teams.
- The training on first aid, water purification, hand washing, use of toilets in the school programme, FSK, awareness on nutrition, together with the block sanitation programme led to health awareness.

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION LOKASIKSHA PARISHAD
 Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narayndrapur
 Kolkata 700 103,
 Web: www.cbdrm.org, E-mail: rkanjipudh@cal.vsnl.net.in



"All the wealth of the world cannot help one little Indian Village if the people are not taught to help themselves...."
 Swami Vivekananda



Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Project

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