

Capturing DRR Voices Since 2005



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southasiadisasters.net



Southasiadisasters.net: Capturing Disaster Risk Reduction Voices Since 2005

Mainstreaming the voices of those stakeholders who reduce risks since 2005 was not easy.

Maintaining rapid as well as environmentally sustainable growth remains an important goal for disaster victims of South Asia. This goal can only be achieved by effectively reducing the risk faced by these victims.

Though some excellent publications on disaster risk reduction (DRR) have come up from South Asia in the recent past, few have focused on capturing the voices on the essential needs of the victims and the vulnerable. In this regard, Southasiadisasters.net stands out as it has strived to capture such marginalized voices.

The needs and the demands of the victims and those who either work with them or for them are often not considered in shaping policies or implementing projects related to disaster risk reduction. In particular, the voices of the poor and vulnerable groups (like women and children) are most regularly ignored. Southasiadisasters.net has tried to make such voices heard.



Photo: AIDMI.

Voices on other significant DRR issues such as participatory DRR practices, the use of public resources in planning recovery and the need of economic growth after disasters often go unheard. Southasiadisasters.net has strived to capture and share the voices on these significant DRR issues.

One of the most important reasons for risk reappearance after DRR projects is the inadequate attention accorded to rebuilding the services structure

post disasters. Social services such as schooling and hospitals and physical services such as water, power and sanitation need to be restored immediately after a disaster. Southasiadisasters.net has listened to the voices recognized the importance of these services.

We at the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) aspire for a democratic and participatory DRR mechanism. We find that how we reduce risks is important. If we reduce risks through democratic processes, the results are broad-based and sustainable. Such a mechanism is only possible if every voice that arises out of the deep inequalities of society is heard and captured. Such voices need to animate public discussion and invite as many other voices as possible.

Since 2005 Southasiadisasters.net has captured such voices of those who reduce disaster risks. For, hearing and heeding these voices that arise out of the deprivation and inequalities of society is the most potent way of building resilience. ■

– **Mihir R. Bhatt,**

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute



Photo: AIDMI.

The Uniqueness of Southasiadisasters.net in Capturing Disaster Risk Reduction Voices

Introduction

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has been spearheading evidence based advocacy and disseminating information about disaster risk reduction policies and practices through its newsletter called Southasiadisasters.net. The publication of Southasiadisasters.net started in May 2005 and ever since then it has created and maintained its position as a reputed newsletter boasting of contributions from some of the most respected academics, practitioners and organizations operating in the field of disaster risk reduction.

In November 2013, AIDMI published its 100th issue of Southasiadisasters.net. To celebrate the feat of publishing 100 issues, AIDMI has come out with a special 101st of Southasiadisasters.net. This 101 issue is a compendium of the previous 100 issues delineating the range of topics covered and extent to which they were researched. The 101st issue represents the entire body of work of Southasiadisasters.net and is aimed at increasing awareness and knowledge on issues from the field of disaster risk reduction.

In terms of reporting on important developments from the field of disaster risk reduction, AIDMI has taken a unique approach. The contributions in Southasiadisasters.net reflect this uniqueness for not only are there contributions from action oriented implementation agencies but from top researchers as well. Meticulously researched and lucidly written,

Table-1. Overview of the percentage wise coverage of all the priorities of HFA 1 in Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	HFA Priority	Percentage Coverage in Southasiadisasters.net
1.	Governance	26%
2.	Risk Identification	13%
3.	Knowledge	17%
4.	Reducing Underlying Risk Factors	27%
5.	Strengthen Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response	17%

Southasiadisasters.net unlike other newsletters is not encumbered with jargons. It is written in simple and easily understandable language to facilitate the understanding of ordinary people on issues related to disaster risk reduction. All these attributes along with many others make Southasiadisasters.net unique and different from other newsletters covering issues on disaster risk reduction. The following attributes best capture the uniqueness of Southasiadisasters.net.

1. Comprehensive Coverage of the priorities of HFA 1

The sum of all the previous issues of Southasiadisasters.net represents a rich repository of knowledge on issues from the field of disaster risk reduction. Southasiadisasters.net is arguably one of the few newsletters that have given credence to all the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 1) by covering them in the form of various themes.

The Hyogo Framework for Action is a seminal document which broadly outlines the important issues that need to be addressed at the global level to make the world more resilient to hazards of all kinds. Thus, by according coverage to all the five priorities of HFA 1, Southasiadisasters.net can thus be viewed as a compendium of various issues and themes associated with disaster risk reduction clubbed under the five priorities of HFA 1.

Table-1 gives an overview of the percentage wise coverage of all the priorities of HFA 1 in Southasiadisasters.net.

Table-2. Details of Various Disasters covered in Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	Name and Year of Disaster	No. of Issues Dedicated
1.	Indian Ocean Tsunami, 2004	06
2.	Kumbhakonam Fire Tragedy, 2004	01
3.	Kashmir Earthquake, 2005	05
4.	Floods in Gujarat, 2006 & 2007	03
5.	Floods in South Asia, 2007	03
6.	Floods in Bihar, 2007	03
7.	Kerala Boat Tragedy, 2007	01
8.	Cyclone Nargis, 2008	01
9.	Leh Cloudburst, 2010	02
10.	Sikkim Earthquake, 2011	02
11.	Uttarakhand Floods, 2013	01
12.	Heat Wave in Bihar, 2013	01
13.	Cyclone Phailin, 2013	01
Total Number of Issues Dedicated		31

Table-3. Policy Discourses Shaped by Southasiadisasters.net

Sr. No.	National Policies	International Policies
1.	Disaster Management Bill, 2005	Sphere of Regional Recovery
2.	First India Disaster Management Congress (IMDC) 2006	Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)
3.	Second IMDC) 2009	Towards HFA 2
4.	District Disaster Management Planning	South Asian Tsunami Recovery Efforts
5.	-	NGO Impact Initiative
6.	-	Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC) Recommendations
7.	-	Second Asian Ministerial Conference, 2007

2. Comprehensive Coverage of 13 disasters across 31 issues

Southasiadisasters.net has comprehensively covered a total of 13 disasters across 31 issues. All the practices and policies related with the aforementioned 13 disasters were ably captured in Southasiadisasters.net as articles and opinions. All the concerned articles are meticulously researched and highly informative

written in a clear and lucid style to facilitate easy understanding. Table-2 is a list of the 13 disasters and the no. of Southasiadisasters.net 31 issues dedicated to each.

3. National and International Policy Discourses Shaped by Southasiadisasters.net

Southasiadisasters.net has made considerable inroads in shaping the

policy discourse related to disaster risk reduction at national and international level. Table-3 is a list of the major policy deliberations that have been influenced by Southasiadisasters.net at the national and international level.

4. The Diversity of the Contributors and Articles in Southasiadisasters.net

Southasiadisasters.net has been enriched by contributions that have come majorly from action oriented and local level implementation agencies. At the same time, Southasiadisasters.net has been fortunate enough to receive contributions from some extremely reputable researchers and academics, as well.

Thus, Southasiadisasters.net has a healthy blend of policy and practical experiences from the field of disaster risk reduction in its repertoire. Table-4 lists the major sectors from which the contributors of Southasiadisasters.net hail.

Table-4. Sector-wise Classification of Contributors

Sectors	No. of contributors
Local Government Organisations	50
Local Non-governmental Organisations	68
International Non-governmental Organisations	74
United Nations Agencies	22
Universities and Educational Institutes	35
DRR Experts	15
Private Sector	07
Youth Interns	44
AIDMI Team Members	30
Total	345

5. Espousing a Global Perspective to Disaster Risk Reduction

Southasiadisasters.net espouses a truly global perspective to the policies and practices related with the field of disaster risk reduction. It has received contributions from individuals and organizations from many countries.

A total of 345 contributors from 33 countries of the world have contributed to Southasiadisasters.net.

6. Collaboration with reputable National and International Organizations

In advocating better and improved disaster risk reduction policies and practices, Southasiadisasters.net has collaborated with a host of national and international organizations that range from governments departments to educational institutions and from international NGOs to the private sector and the UN system. Table-5 is a list of the types of organizations that have contributed to Southasiadisasters.net grouped according to sectors. ■

Table-5. Sector-wise Classification of Contributing Organizations

Sectors	No. of organisations
Local Government Organisations	18
Local Non-governmental Organisations	40
International Non-governmental Organisations	81
United Nations Agencies	16
Universities and Educational Institutes	27
Private Sector	06
Total	188

southasiadisasters.net: From May 2005 to December 2013

Issue No. 100, November 2013

New Generation of Risk Reducers



- 2 Rebuilding Uttarakhand: Challenges Ahead
- 3 How Do Partnerships Reduce Risks?
- 4 Drawing Water: Triangular Cooperation Between Dhaka, Delhi, and Islamabad?
- 5 ADHR in 2nd Quarter 2013-14
- 6 New Generation of Risk Reducers
- 7 Disaster Preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir Schools
- 8 Reducing Risk in the South
- 10 S&T Time at Warsaw
- 11 Building Resilience in Asia and the Pacific
- 12 Shaping HFA 2 Agenda

Editorial Address: South Asian Regional Coordinator, UNISDR, 100 Brookline Avenue, Suite 1200, Boston, MA 02118, USA. Tel: +1 617 725 2300. Fax: +1 617 725 2301. Email: saarc@unisdr.org


Author: Mihir K. Bhanu, UNISDR, South Asian Regional Coordinator, UNISDR, 100 Brookline Avenue, Suite 1200, Boston, MA 02118, USA. Tel: +1 617 725 2300. Fax: +1 617 725 2301. Email: mihir.bhanu@unisdr.org

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100. New Generation of Risk Reducers

Special Issue No. 99, October 2013

When Preparedness Works: Case of Cyclone Phailin



- 2 Global Review for Cyclone Phailin, NEMA South Trust
- 3 UNISDR on Phailin Preparedness
- 4 National Disaster Management Authority's Role in Cyclone Phailin
- 5 Government of Orissa: From Indian Sub-Continent to International Stage: Cyclone Phailin
- 6 Understanding the Impact of Phailin
- 7 What Preparedness Did: The Case of Cyclone Phailin
- 8 Central Emergency Response Fund Cyclone Phailin
- 9 The Roll and the Acropolis
- 10 Human Resilience and Capacity Development after Cyclone Phailin
- 11 A Day After Cyclone Phailin
- 12 Advice from Sri Lanka: Risk to Schools Seeking Work in Cyclone Phailin Relief and Recovery
- 13 Field Updates: Cyclone Phailin
- 14 Where Will My Next Case From?

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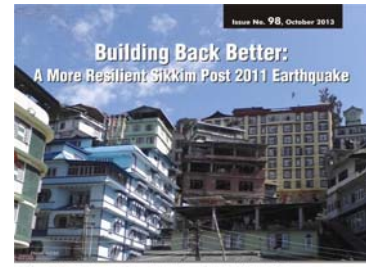
Author: Mihir K. Bhanu, UNISDR, South Asian Regional Coordinator, UNISDR, 100 Brookline Avenue, Suite 1200, Boston, MA 02118, USA. Tel: +1 617 725 2300. Fax: +1 617 725 2301. Email: mihir.bhanu@unisdr.org

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99. When Preparedness Works: Case of Cyclone Phailin

Issue No. 98, October 2013

Building Back Better: A More Resilient Sikkim Post 2011 Earthquake



- 2 Two Years after the Sikkim Earthquake: Important Lessons Learned
- 3 6225 Survivors - A Mixed Agenda?
- 4 AHRM and the Sikkim Earthquake 2011
- 5 Summary Analysis Sikkim State Disaster Management Plan 2010-2011
- 6 Getting Climate Smart for Disasters in Sikkim
- 7 Lessons of Preparedness from Uttarakhand to Sikkim
- 8 Managing Disaster Debris
- 9 6225 Survivors - A Mixed Agenda?
- 10 Risk in Urban Pradesh: What Should National Integration Council Do?
- 12 Disaster Management and Mitigation Plan 2013
- 14 Rebuilding the Uttarakhand from Ground Zeros
- 15 School Safety in Sikkim: HSP and Beyond

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98. Building Back Better: A More Resilient Sikkim Post 2011 Earthquake

Special Issue No. 97, September 2013

Climate Loss and Damage to Children and Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches



- 2 What do Children Want from Post-2015 Framework?
- 3 Children's Charter for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 4 Children and Resilience
- 5 The Needs of the Child
- 6 Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction in School
- 7 Living Dangerously
- 8 Adaptation and Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change
- 9 The Problem has a Solution Within
- 10 Safer School Campaign in HFA 2
- 11 Children and Smart Disaster Risk Management

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97. Climate Loss and Damage to Children and Climate-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction Approaches

Issue No. 96, September 2013

The Child, The School and The Town



- 2 Children and Green Climate Finance
- 3 Children and 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 4 School Safety and Climate Change: A Call to Action
- 5 Making Schools Safer in Bangladesh
- 6 Resilient Preparations
- 7 Efforts by Teachers in Building Safer Management Plan Post Disaster
- 8 It's Time to Get Ready: Asia's Choice
- 9 Challenges of PFA 2 Round up
- 10 Safer and Resilient Schools
- 11 Insights from India: Children

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96. The Child, The School and The Town

Issue No. 95, August 2013

Floods in Uttarakhand: A New Relief Deal



- 2 Floods in Uttarakhand: A New Relief Deal
- 3 Floods in Uttarakhand: Opportunities to Reduce Risk in Recovery
- 4 Road Side Capacity Building in Uttarakhand
- 5 The Uttarakhand Disaster: A Wake Call to Stop the Cycle of our High Himalayas
- 6 Enterprise Development: And Safer Way in Uttarakhand?
- 7 Early Warning and Alert Systems
- 8 Global South South Development Expo 2013
- 9 HSP Completes 20 Years of Action
- 10 Main-roads Recovery for Uttarakhand Floods: An Eye Towards the Land of the Gods

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95. Floods in Uttarakhand: A New Relief Deal

Issue No. 94, July 2013

Towards HFA 2: Emerging Insights from the Grassroots



- 2 The Role of Civil Society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Lessons Learned from India
- 3 Introduction to the Civil Society Dialogue with the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- 4 Disaster Risk Reduction and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Insights from the Asia Pacific
- 5 Insights on National Resilience in Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 6 Shaping Post-2015 Development (HFA) Agenda Bottom up
- 7 Capacity Building for HFA: Taking Stock and Moving Forward
- 8 Strengthening Disaster Action on South-South Cooperation in Asia Pacific: Insights
- 9 2013 Insights on Linking Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in Asia
- 10 Protecting School/Children from Heat Waves in Uttarakhand

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94. Towards HFA 2: Emerging Insights from the Gras roots

Issue No. 93, June 2013

Ecosystem Based Disaster Management Planning



- 2 Ecosystem Based Flood Relief to Disaster in Uttarakhand
- 3 A New Urban Setting: Emerging Challenges of Disaster Risk Reduction for Urban Development in India
- 4 Ecosystem Based Disaster Risk Reduction
- 5 Climate Risk and Disaster Risk Management Plan Post Disaster, Orissa
- 6 Climate Smart Revolution
- 7 Addressing Natural Hazards in Planning
- 8 Using Non-Breastly Hazards in Disaster Management Planning: Emerging Global Trends
- 9 Singapore Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction
- 10 Disaster Risk Reduction in Post Disaster Resilience: Case Study in the Indian Subcontinent
- 11 Gender, Risk, and Community Mobilization in Uganda
- 12 What does the IPCC SREX Report Mean for India?
- 13 Protecting Communities from Climate Change
- 14 ACRN in Asia: A Note for Exploration

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93. Ecosystem Based Disaster Management Planning

Issue No. 92, April 2013

Learning School Safety for Making Education Safer



- 2 INTRODUCTION: Write Once, A Participatory Learning Tool
- 3 FIELD VISIT
- 4 OUR SCHOOL IS SAFER NOW!
- 5 EXPERIENCE SHARING: Mainstreaming School Safety in Curriculum, Text Book
- 6 EXPERIENCE SHARING: Making Schools Safer in Tamil Nadu
- 7 EXPERIENCE SHARING: Making Schools Safer in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka
- 8 EXPERIENCE SHARING: School Safety Campaign in Coastal India: Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- 9 EXPERIENCE SHARING: Making Schools Safer in Tamil Nadu
- 10 EXPERIENCE SHARING: School Safety Campaign in Coastal India: Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- 11 EXPERIENCE SHARING: Making Schools Safer in Tamil Nadu
- 12 WAY AHEAD: Linking School Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction

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92. Learning School Safety for Making Education Safer

Issue No. 91, January 2013

Putting Children at the Heart of Disaster Risk Reduction



- 2 Child-Centred DRR Means Putting Children at the Heart of DRR
- 4 The Role of India's National and State Governments in Promoting Child Rights and Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction
- 5 Promoting Child Rights and Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction at the Policy Level
- 6 Emergency Management Exercises as Tools for Promoting Child-Centred Disaster Management Plans
- 8 Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction in Guwahati, Assam
- 9 Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Child Rights
- 11 Launch of State Platform for Children in Bihar

Editorial Address: **Nilika K. Shukla**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, India
 Guest Editor Address: **Dr. Sachin Kumar, MEd, MPH**, The University of Maryland and Catholic, New York, USA
 On Site Editor: **Dr. V. Nanda Kumar**, Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Sustainable Development, Tamil Nadu University and Training Institute in Community Based Disaster and Risk Reduction (CDRR), India
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91. Putting Children at the Heart of Disaster Risk Reduction

Special Issue No. 90, December 2012

Making Guwahati Prepared



- 2 Emergency Management Exercises (EMEs), What are they? Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise
- 3 Successes of the Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise 2012
- 4 Mega Mock Drill Across Guwahati
- 7 All India Disaster Mitigation Institute and Emergency Management Exercise
- 8 Preparing Guwahati's Schools and Higher Education Institutions for Emergencies
- 10 CDRMs Take Top Teacher: Some Lessons and Challenges
- 11 Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise: International Perspective
- 12 Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise: The Way Forward!
- 14 ADRM at the Centre: Emergency Management Exercise (EMEX 2012)

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90. Making Guwahati Prepared

Issue No. 89, December 2012

Process Oriented District Disaster Management Planning: Pilots in India



- 2 People Led District Disaster Management Plan
- 3 District Disaster Management Plan of West Bengal
- 4 Review of DDM Plan Framework and Process in Gujarat
- 5 Making District Disaster Management in Lakshadweep
- 8 Role of State Disaster Management Authority in Making DDMs
- 10 Development of a Model District Disaster Management Plan in Madhya Pradesh
- 11 Hazard and Vulnerability Capacity Analysis of Odisha
- 12 Making District Disaster Management Plan Pro-Poor

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89. Process Oriented District Disaster Management Planning: Pilots in India

Issue No. 88, November 2012

Towards Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia



- 2 The Process of the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management Approach (CSDRM)
- 4 Key Issues in Addressing Climate Change Associated with Disaster in Asia
- 7 Transient Investigations of Disasters in the Context of Climate Change Mitigation
- 8 Monitoring DRR into Climate Compatible Development: Case in Sri Lanka, Philippines and Indonesia
- 10 CSDRM Agenda for Action in Asia
- 12 On the Way to Establishing Disaster Management Using the Policy Planning
- 14 A Review Analysis of Disaster Risk Management Through the CSDRM Approach to DRR
- 15 Emergency Asset Classification and DRR
- 16 Reducing Risk Faced by the Poor
- 17 SREx Obligation in Pakistan: Way Ahead
- 18 Impact of Climate Change on South-East Asian Coastal Lowlands: Trends to Watch in 2012

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88. Towards Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction in Asia

Issue No. 87, October 2012

Strengthened and Enhanced Disaster Resilience of High Risk Coastal Communities



- 2 Project Assessments: How Do We Start Thinking About DRR
- 3 Making Schools Safe in West Bengal, India
- 4 Integrating Village Level DRR Plans into Development Plans
- 6 Managing Knowledge: Enhancing Disaster Resilience of a Risk Community
- 8 Community Resilience to Climate Change in the Bay of Bengal
- 9 Mitigation for Poor and Informal Coastal Communities
- 11 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Project Part for Asia and the Pacific
- 12 Community Resilience to Climate Change Risk for Youth and Children

Editorial Address: **Nilika K. Shukla**, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, India
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87. Strengthened and Enhanced Disaster Resilience of High Risk Coastal Communities

Issue No. 86, July 2012

Making District Disaster Management Plan Pro-Poor



- 2 Making District Disaster Management Plan Pro-Poor
- 3 A Review High Risk Based Approach and District Disaster Management Plans
- 4 Proving Community Led...
- 5 "A Change of Mind is Needed"
- 6 Empowerment Legacies and their Effects on Social Systems
- 8 Resilience and the District Disaster Management Plan
- 10 Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Building of West Coastern - Macro Analysis
- 11 Hazard and Vulnerability Capacity Analysis Approach Perspective
- 12 Migration and DDMs

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 Editorial Board: **Jayashree Thakur**, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), South Asia, Sri Lanka



86. Making District Disaster Management Plan Pro-Poor

Issue No. 85, June 2012

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in High Altitude Regions



- 2 Reducing Disaster Risk in Ladakh
- 3 Strengthening CSDRM in Ladakh
- 4 Asia is a High Altitude: How to Risk Assess Ladakh?
- 5 Disaster Risk Reduction in High Altitude Regions
- 6 Empowerment Participatory as a Tool to Strengthen Ties with the Nation Partners
- 8 Women & Key Roles for Women
- 9 From Vulnerability to Resilience - Working with Communities to Reduce the Effective Risk
- 11 Community Resilience of Ladakh
- 12 India: An Emerging Concerned as Disaster Risk Reduction
- 13 Children and Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment at High Altitude
- 14 "Vulnerability Assessment for 'Resilient Societies' for a disaster Resilient"
- 15 Cash Transfer Programming
- 16 Towards Local Level Safety in High Altitude Region
- 18 Green Communities: Managing Disaster Risk Reduction
- 19 Children and Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment at High Altitude
- 19 Giving Money, Making Communities Resilient

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85. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction in High Altitude Regions

Issue No. 84, May 2012

Reducing Risks through Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction



- 2 Facilitation of Community Based DRR Efforts
- 3 Family Approach to DRR Activities
- 4 CSRP Initiatives in India
- 5 Measuring Community Resilience
- 6 Community in Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
- 7 Developing a CSDRM Plan for Implementation
- 9 Re-shaping Development: Through Risk Reduction
- 11 Involving the Community in CSDRM
- 12 Children Reduce the Risks in their Villages
- 13 Collaboration, Complementarity and Continuity for CSDRM
- 15 From Vulnerability to Capacity: CSDRM Approach
- 16 Empowering Local to Area Children as Disaster Risk Reducers
- 18 Disaster Risk Reduction for Children
- 20 CSDRM: Questions for Action

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 Editorial Board: **Jayashree Thakur**, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), South Asia, Sri Lanka



84. Reducing Risk through Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Issue No. 83, March 2012

Microinsurance for Disaster Risk Reduction: Post-disaster Recovery of Poor



- 2 Joint Efforts for Mitigating Economic Loss
- 3 Financing Risk Reduction and Recovery before Disaster: India
- 6 Microinsurance for Vulnerable Coastal Communities in Odisha
- 7 Importance of Microinsurance for the Poor: Thinking Through Disaster Perspective
- 8 Microinsurance: Social Work Perspectives
- 9 Rainfall Insurance: A Case of ISDR for Covering Disaster Risk: Can it Take Care of the Children and Youth?
- 11 Microinsurance for School Community: A Perspective from the Local Community
- 12 Microinsurance Benefits the Poor and Vulnerable
- 13 Microinsurance Key Services for People at the Bottom of Pyramid
- 14 Microinsurance for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 15 Transferring Disaster Risk: Can it Take Care of the Children and Youth?
- 16 Microinsurance: A Best Buy Life Insurance (ISDR) Perspective
- 17 Microinsurance as Disaster Risk Reduction

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83. Micro insurance for Disaster Risk Reduction: Post-disaster recovery of poor

Issue No. 82, February 2012

SIKKIM EARTHQUAKE

What Does it Take for Locally Owned Recovery?

2. PRACTICE: Planning Phase of CMADSR in Sikkim
3. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
4. PRACTICE: Recovery in Sikkim: Start for CMADSR
5. PRACTICE: Facts and Figures of Sikkim Earthquake
6. PRACTICE: Impact of Sikkim Earthquake on Community
7. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
8. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
9. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
10. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
11. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake
12. PRACTICE: Sikkim's Recovery After Sikkim Earthquake

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southasiadisasters.net

82. Sikkim Earthquake: What Does it Take for Locally Owned Recovery?

Issue No. 81, November 2011

SCHOOL-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: MAKING EDUCATION SAFER

2. Disaster Safety of Schools: A National Concern
3. School as Live Laboratory: Sikkim's Key Contribution to the National School Safety Programme: Drafting Note
4. Impact of Earthquake on Schools in Sikkim
5. Safer Education during Emergencies
6. Building Disaster Resilience in School
7. School Safety Insurance: Ensuring Protection for Students and School Staff
8. Disaster Education: Experience from Rural Schools of China
9. Best Efforts for Making Schools Safer in Myanmar
10. School Safety Initiatives in India
11. How the Risk and Disaster Safety Priority of Action of Mega Program for Action
12. Step Up for Disaster Risk Reduction
13. City-based Emergency Management Exercise (EMEX): Towards Making Citizens Safer
14. Case Studies

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southasiadisasters.net

81. School-based Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Education Safer

Issue No. 80, September 2011

Long-term Recovery in Hilly Areas: Leh-Ladakh Cloudburst

2. PRACTICE: Investing in CMADSR
3. PRACTICE: Building Resilience with Digital Technology
4. PRACTICE: Building Resilience with Digital Technology
5. PRACTICE: Building Resilience with Digital Technology
6. PRACTICE: Building Resilience with Digital Technology
7. CASE STUDY: Engaging Rural Community in Disaster Resilience and CMAD
8. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
9. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
10. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
11. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
12. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
13. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
14. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
15. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
16. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
17. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
18. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
19. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools
20. COMMUNITY VOICES: Women from Local Schools

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80. Long-term Recovery in Hilly Areas: Leh-Ladakh Cloudburst

Issue No. 79, August 2011

Participatory Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment: Practice and Theory

Coastal Communities Generating Information on Risk and Risk Reduction

2. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
3. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
4. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
5. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
6. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
7. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
8. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
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13. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
14. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
15. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
16. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
17. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
18. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
19. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
20. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?

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79. Participatory Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment: Practice and Theory

Issue No. 78, July 2011

Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction: Upward and Onward

2. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
3. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
4. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
5. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
6. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
7. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
8. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
9. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
10. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
11. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
12. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
13. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
14. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
15. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
16. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
17. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
18. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
19. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward
20. COMMUNITY MANAGED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION: Upward and Onward

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78. Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction: Upward and Onward

Issue No. 77, June 2011

Understanding Risk and Intervening to Increase Resilience with Vulnerable Communities

2. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
3. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
4. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
5. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
6. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
7. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
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18. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
19. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?
20. PARTICIPATORY ASSESSMENT: World Humanitarian Day: What and Why?

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77. Understanding Risk and Intervening to Increase Resilience with Vulnerable Communities

Issue No. 76, April 2011

Humanitarian Accountability Standard: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?

2. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?
3. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?
4. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?
5. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?
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19. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?
20. HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARD: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?

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southasiadisasters.net

76. Humanitarian Accountability Standard: What Matters most in Humanitarian Action?

Issue No. 75, March 2011

Recovery from Floods in Bihar

2. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
3. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
4. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
5. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
6. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
7. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
8. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
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17. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
18. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
19. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar
20. THEORETICAL: Recovery from Floods in Bihar

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75. Recovery from Floods in Bihar

Issue No. 74, February 2011

Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery

2. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
3. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
4. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
5. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
6. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
7. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
8. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
9. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
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19. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery
20. PROMOTING AND PROTECTING RIGHTS IN RECOVERY: Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery

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74. Promoting and Protecting Rights in Recovery

Issue No. 73, January 2011

Community-to-Community Learning



- 1. **TRAINING**
What makes them Sustainable? Community to Community Learning
- 2. **COMMUNITY LEARNING**
What makes them Sustainable? Community to Community Learning
- 3. **DISASTER RESILIENT**
Community Capacity Building in Post-affected Areas
- 4. **LEARNING FROM COMMUNITY**
Hard Disasters: Community Learning from Each Other
- 5. **ACTUAL LEARNING**
Community Learning via Action by Community Leaders
- 6. **EXPERIENCE SHARING**
Bike to Your Neighbour: Community Learning
- 7. **EXPERIENCE SHARING**
Hard Disasters: Community Learning from Each Other
- 8. **COMMUNITY LEARNING**
Bike to Your Neighbour: Community Learning

Editorial Address: Dr. Sanjiv Datta, Director, National Institute of Disaster Management for Sustainable Development, Local University Disaster and Training Professor and Coordinator, Disaster Studies and Disaster Management, Bhubaneswar, India. Email: sanjiv.datta@nicdmc.org



73. Community-to-Community Learning

Issue No. 72, December 2010

Regionalizing The Best Disaster Risk Reduction Practices

Third Regional Disaster Preparedness Workshop



- 1. **INTRODUCTION**
ADMC Training Series from Across the Globe
- 2. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 3. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 4. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 5. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 6. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 7. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India
- 8. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Regionalizing the Best Practices: A Case Study from India

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72. Regionalizing The Best Disaster Risk Reduction Practices: Third Regional Disaster Preparedness Workshop

Issue No. 71, October 2010

Building Youth Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction



- 1. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
Flood Impact and Recovery in Rural Areas
- 2. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
Youth Experiences of Rural Camp
- 3. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
Community Resilience and DRR: Role of Social Work
- 4. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
Action by Youth for Safer Schools in Rural Areas
- 5. **RESEARCH ON ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**
Social Work and Disaster Risk Reduction
- 6. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
National Roundtable on Safer Schools: Role of Youth
- 7. **RESEARCH ON ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**
Social Work and Disaster Risk Reduction
- 8. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
National Roundtable on Safer Schools: Role of Youth

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71. Building Youth Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction

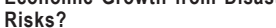
Issue No. 70, September 2010

Is China Better at Protecting its Economic Growth from Disaster Risks?



- 1. **ANNIVERSARY EVENT**
World Humanitarian Day
- 2. **COMMUNITY EVALUATION**
Towards Making School Safer: A Comprehensive Case Study
- 3. **EVALUATION REPORT**
Learning from Each Other Among Fieldworkers
- 4. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
CDSRM in Afghanistan: A Joint Initiative
- 5. **COMMUNITY EVALUATION**
Evaluating Economic Recovery of Small Businesses
- 6. **COMMUNITY RESEARCH**
Victim Community Rebuilds Leh
- 7. **REVIEW PAPER**
A Long Term Perspective on ADMC

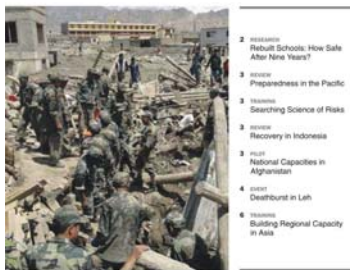
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70. Is China Better at Protecting its Economic Growth from Disaster Risks?

Issue No. 69, August 2010

Deathburst in Leh



- 1. **RESEARCH**
Rebuilt Schools: How Safe After Nine Years?
- 2. **DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**
Preparedness in the Pacific
- 3. **RESEARCH**
Searching Science of Risks
- 4. **RESEARCH**
Recovery in Indonesia
- 5. **RESEARCH**
National Capacities in Afghanistan
- 6. **RESEARCH**
Deathburst in Leh
- 7. **RESEARCH**
Building Regional Capacity in Asia

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69. Deathburst in Leh

Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction



Resilient Communities of Gujarat taking Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Actions
First South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy

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68. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: Resilient Communities of Gujarat taking DRR and Climate Change Adaptation Actions

Involving Communities, Civil Society and NGOs in Disaster Management

Second India Disaster Management Congress 2009

From an Effort to Transform Disaster Recovery into Regenerative Disaster Risk Reduction for the Poor

southasiadisasters.net

67. Involving Communities, Civil Society and NGOs in Disaster Management: Second IDMC 2009

Enriching Climate Change Education in Asia: An Effort to Make Schools Safer

From an Effort to Transform Disaster Recovery into Regenerative Disaster Risk Reduction for the Poor

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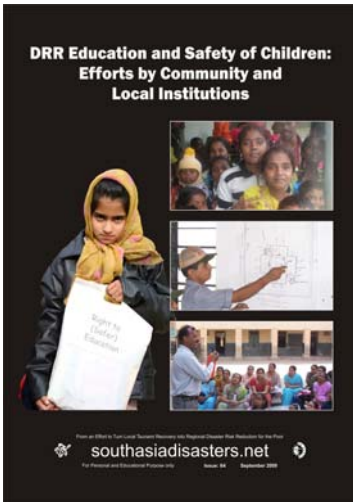
66. Enriching Climate Change Education in Asia: An Effort to Make Schools Safer

South Asian Tsunami Recovery Efforts, Achievements and Challenges After Five Years

From an Effort to Transform Disaster Recovery into Regenerative Disaster Risk Reduction for the Poor

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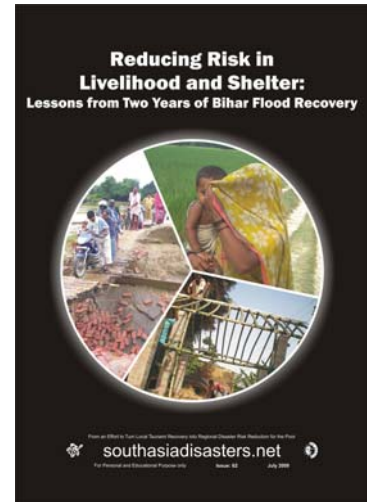
65. South Asian Tsunami Recovery Efforts: Achievements and Challenges After Five Years



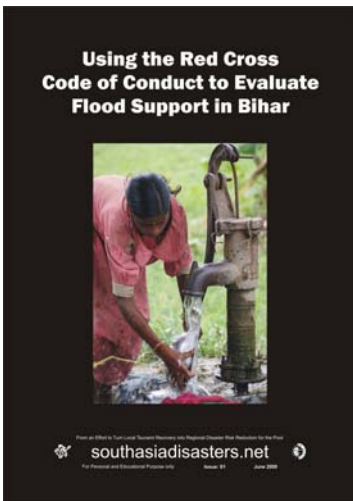
64. DRR Education and Safety of Children: Efforts by Community and Local Institutions



63. Bihar Floods 2007: What Has Been Done?



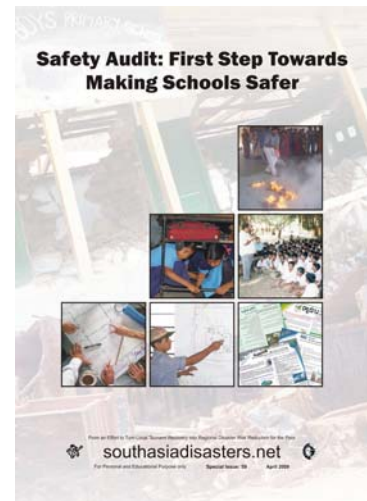
62. Reducing Risk in Livelihood and Shelter: Lessons from Two Years of Bihar Flood Recovery



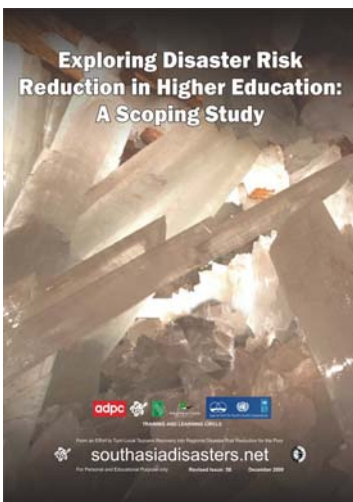
61. Using the Red Cross Code of Conduct to Evaluate Flood Support in Bihar



60. Disaster Risk Reduction Through Research and Education



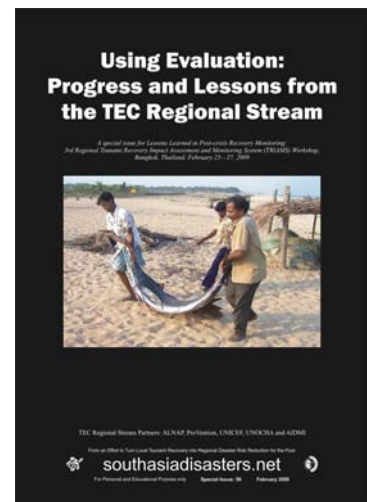
59. Safety Audit: First Step Towards Making Schools Safer



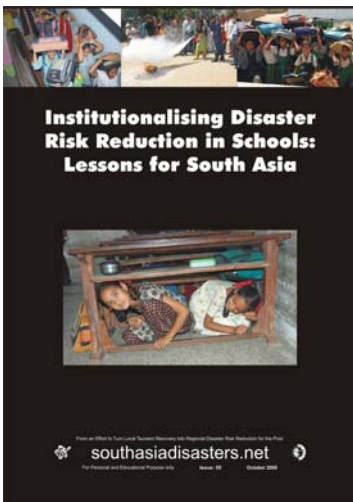
58. Exploring Disaster Risk Reduction in Higher Education: A Scoping Study



57. Asia Under Climate Threat: Role of Civil Society and Media



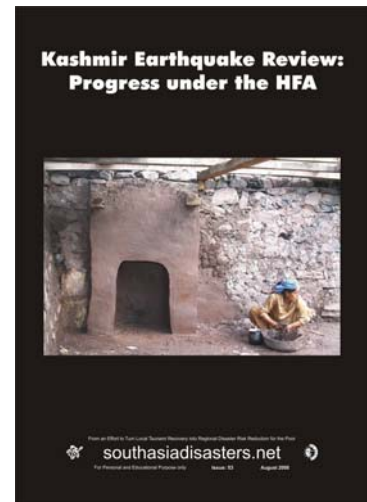
56. Using Evaluation: Progress and Lessons from the TEC Regional Stream



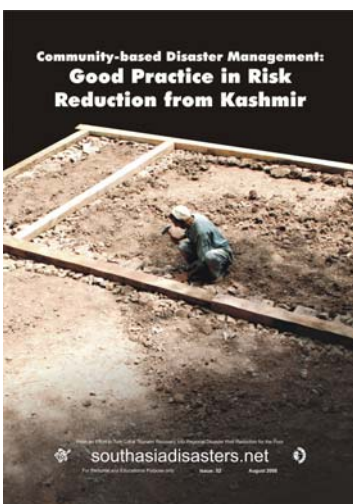
55. Institutionalising Disaster Risk Reduction in Schools: Lessons for South Asia



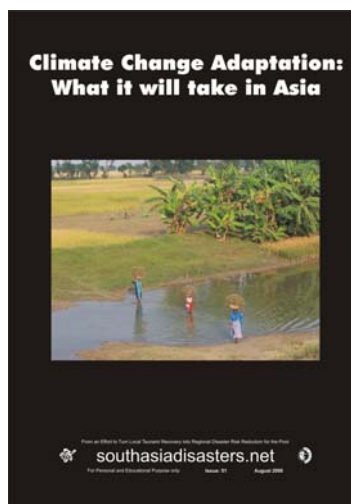
54. Cyclone Nargis



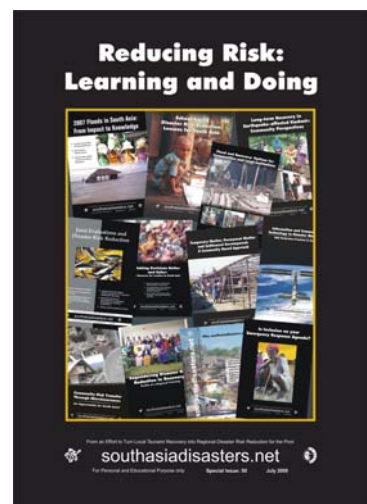
53. Kashmir Earthquake Review: Progress under the HFA



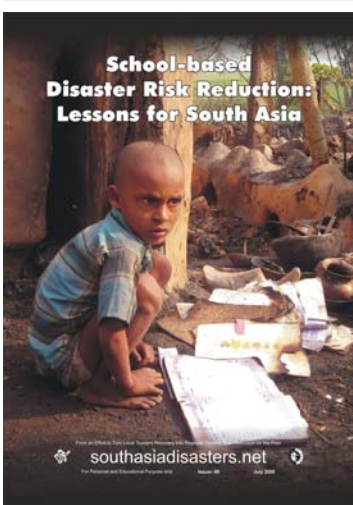
52. Community-based Disaster Management: Good Practice in Risk Reduction from Kashmir



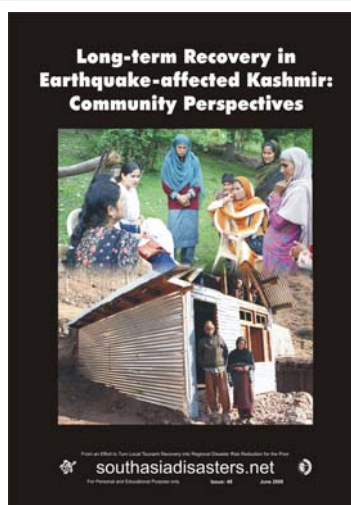
51. Climate Change Adaptation: What it will take in Asia



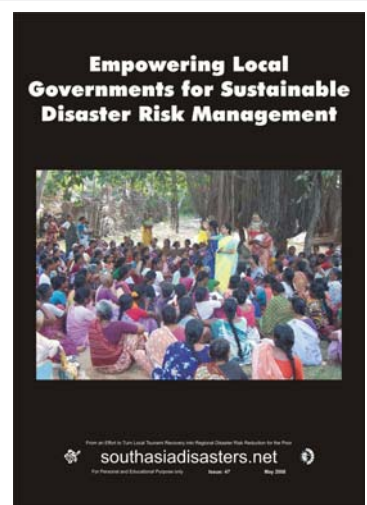
50. Reducing Risk: Learning and Doing



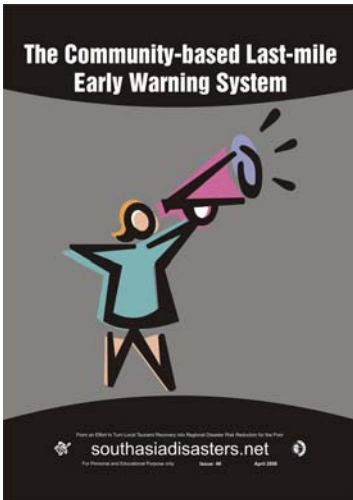
49. School-based Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons for South Asia



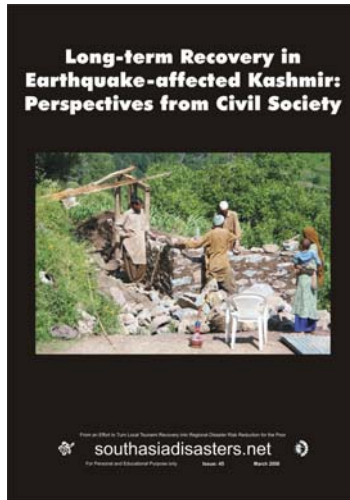
48. Long-term Recovery in Earthquake-affected Kashmir: Community Perspectives



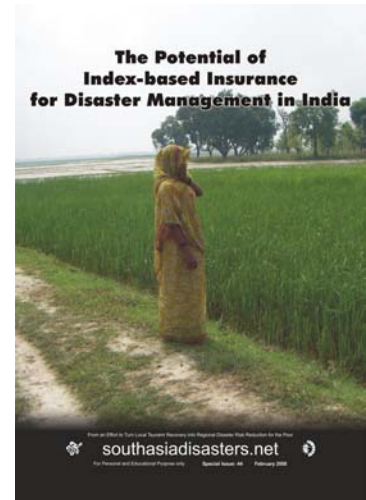
47. Empowering Local Governments for Sustainable Disaster Risk Management



46. The Community-based Last-mile Early Warning System



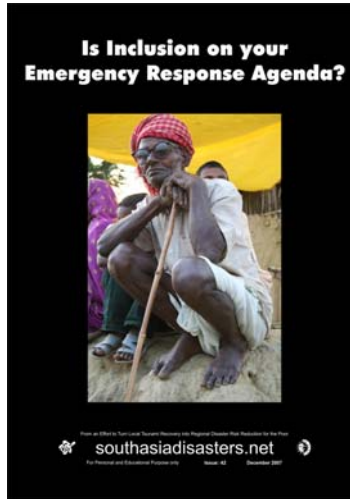
45. Long-term Recovery in Earthquake-affected Kashmir: Perspectives from Civil Society



44. The Potential of Index-based Insurance for Disaster Management in India



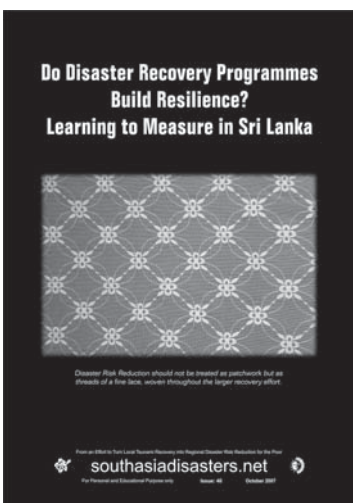
43. The Impact of Micro insurance in South Asia



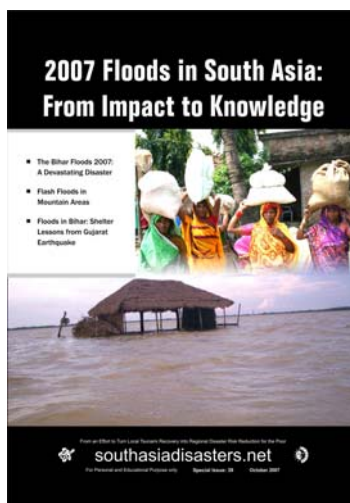
42. Is Inclusion on your Emergency Response Agenda?



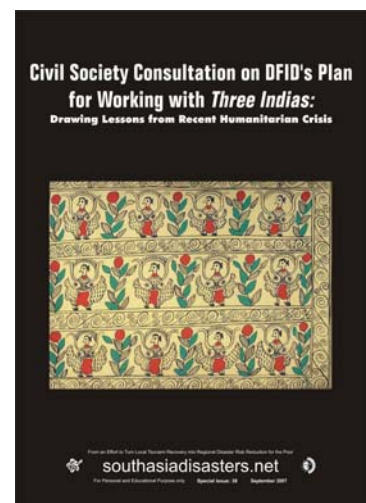
41. The Right Disaster? Human Rights and Dignities in Disaster Response: An Agenda for the 2nd Asian Ministerial Conference



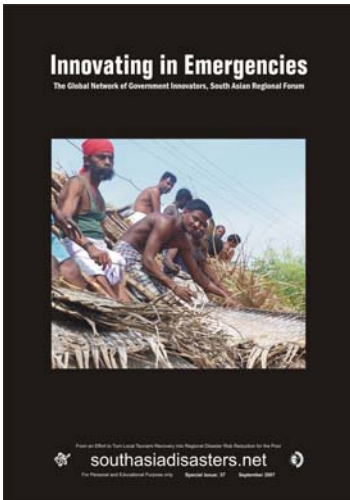
40. Do Disaster Recovery Programmes Build Resilience? Learning to Measure in Sri Lanka



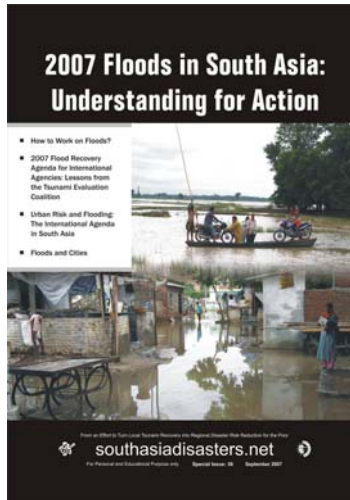
39. 2007 Floods in South Asia: From Impact to Knowledge



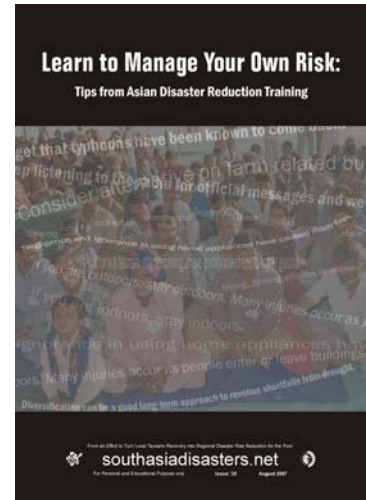
38. Civil Society Consultation on DIFID's Plan for Working with Three Indias



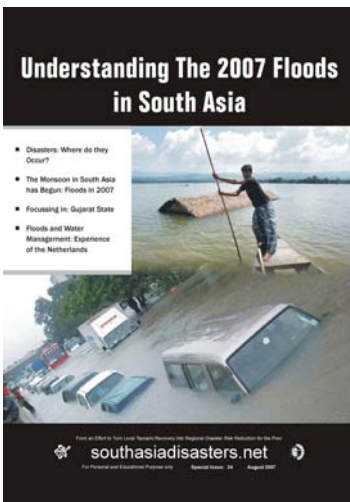
37. Innovating in Emergencies



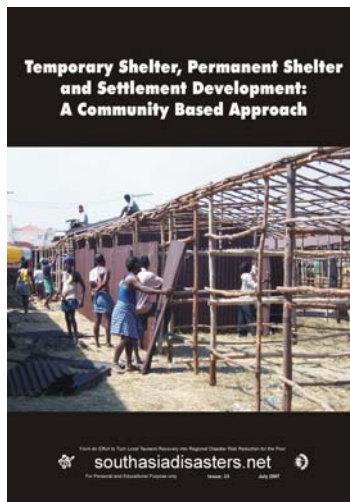
36. 2007 Floods in South Asia: Understanding for Action



35. Learn to Manage Your Own Risk



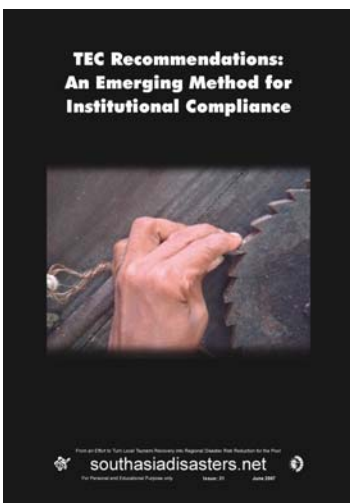
34. Understanding The 2007 Floods in South Asia



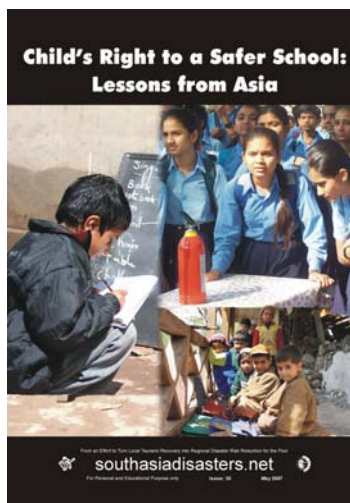
33. Temporary Shelter, Permanent Shelter and Settlement Development: A Community Based Approach



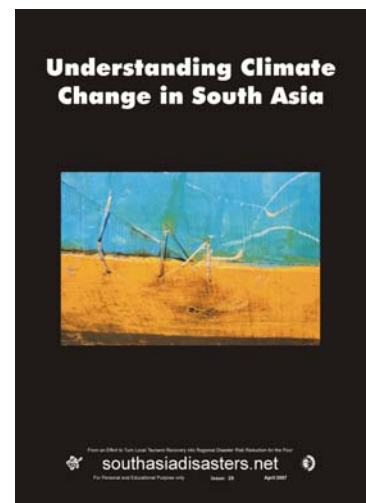
32. Disaster Reduction



31. TEC Recommendations: An Emerging Method for Institutional Compliance



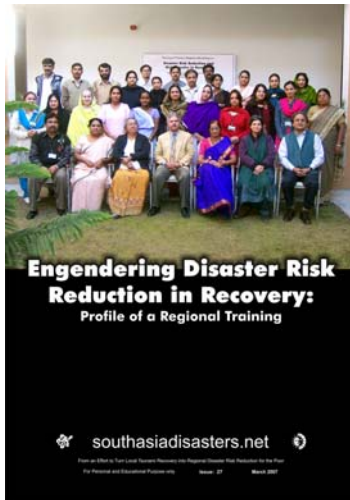
30. Child's Right to a Safer School: Lessons from Asia



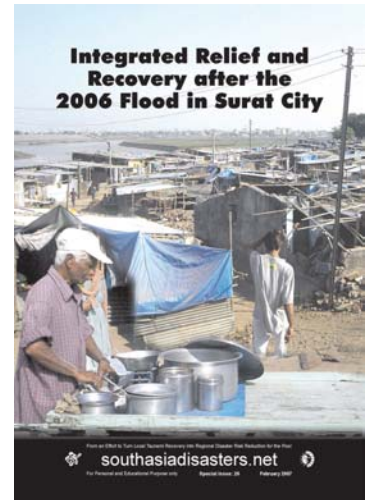
29. Understanding Climate Change in South Asia



28. Women Reducing Risk After the Tsunami in Sri Lanka



27. Engendering Disaster Risk Reduction in Recovery: Profile of a Regional Training



26. Integrated Relief and Recovery after the 2006 Flood in Surat City



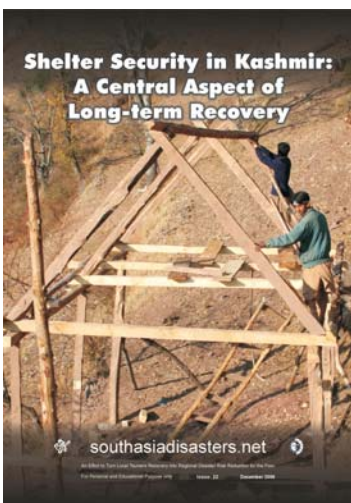
25. Flood and Recovery: Options for Communities and Local Institutions



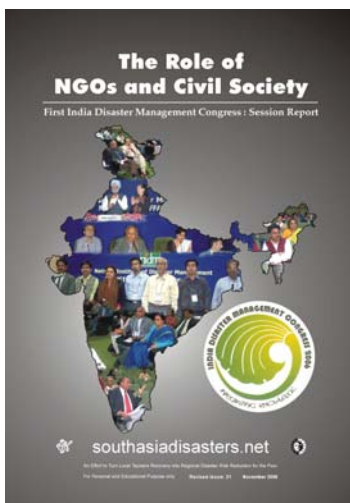
24. Strengthening Local Capacities to Reduce Disaster Risk in Sri Lanka



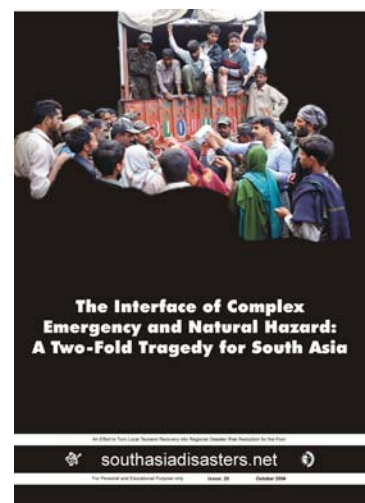
23. Information and Communication Technology in Disaster Management: Risk Reduction Practices in South Asia



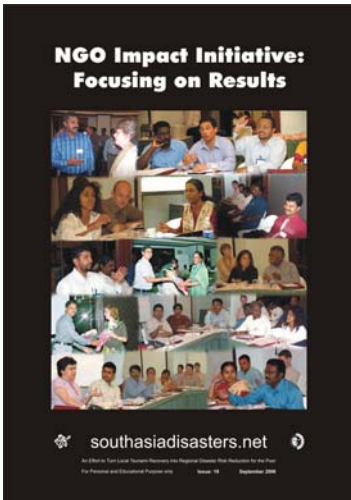
22. Shelter Security in Kashmir: A Central Aspect of Long-term recovery



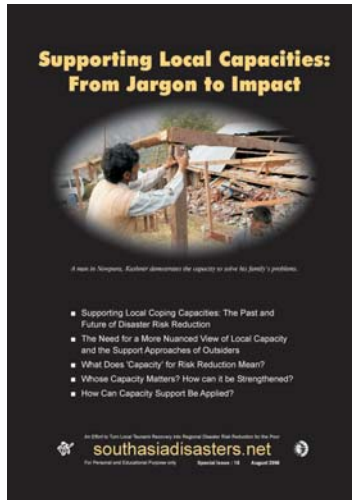
21. The Role of NGOs and Civil Society: FIDMC: Session Report



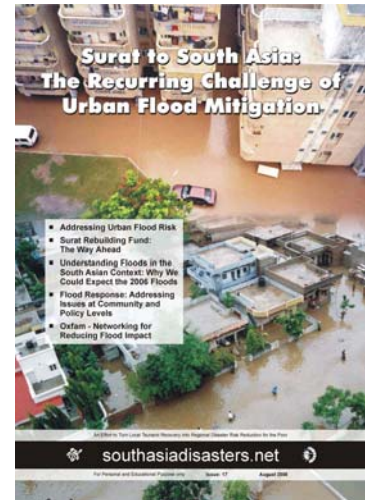
20. The Interface of Complex Emergency and Natural Hazard: A Two-fold Tragedy for South Asia



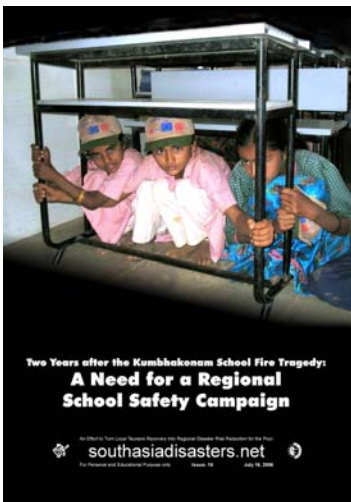
19. NGO Impact Initiative: Focusing on Results



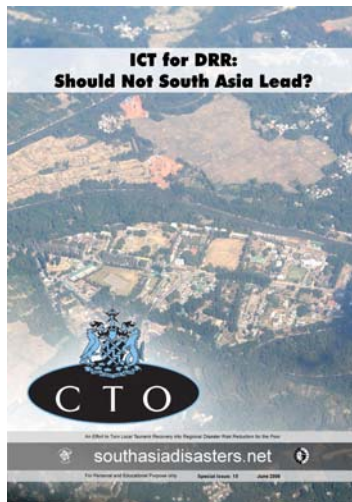
18. Supporting Local Capacities: From Jargon to Impact



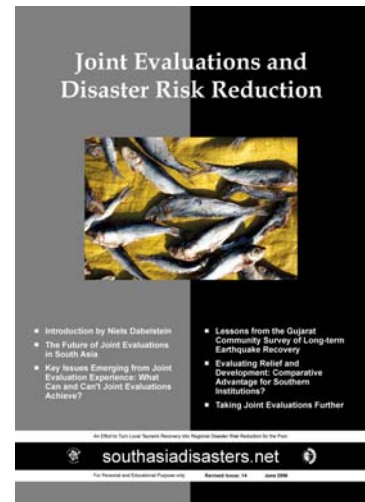
17. Surat to South Asia: The Recurring Challenge of Urban Flood Mitigation



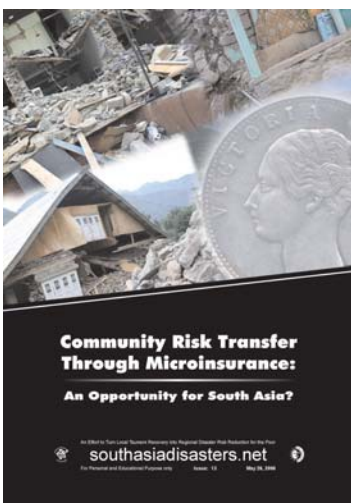
16. A Need for a Regional School Safety Campaign



15. ICT for DRR: Should not South Asia Lead?



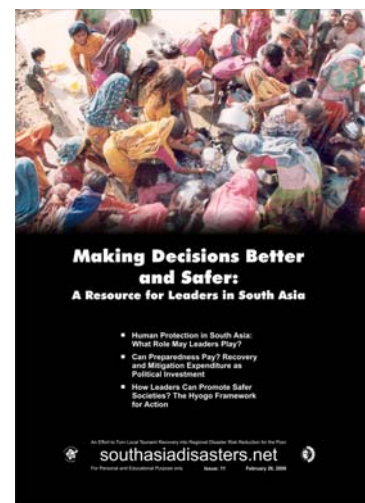
14. Joint Evaluations and Disaster Risk Reduction



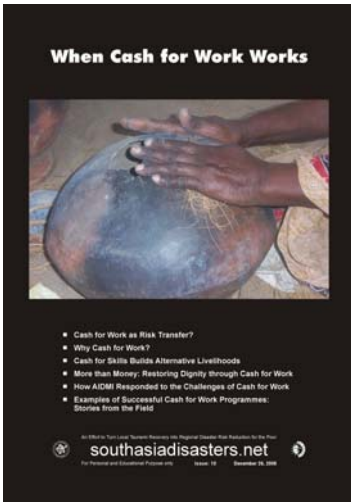
13. Community Risk Transfer: Through Microinsurance: An Opportunity for South Asia?



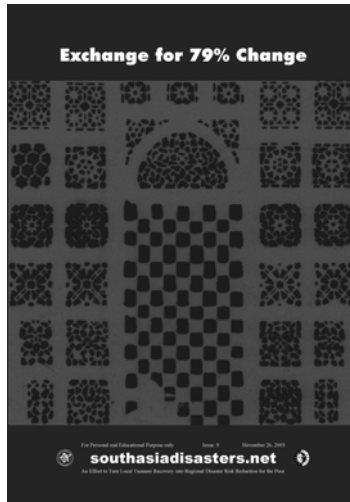
12. Cyclone Preparedness: Where does the Wind Blow?



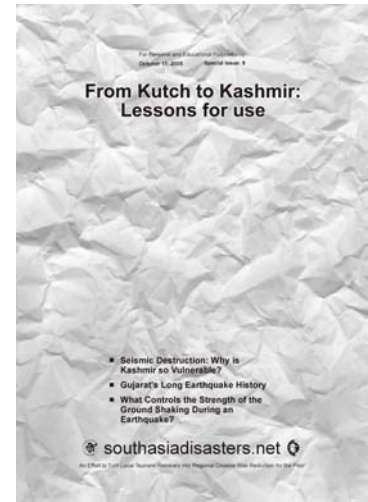
11. Making Decisions Better and Safer: A Resource for Leaders in South Asia



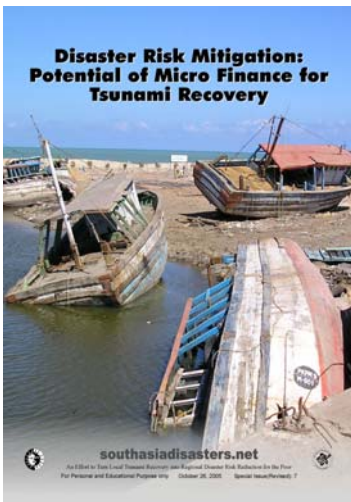
10. When Cash for Work Works



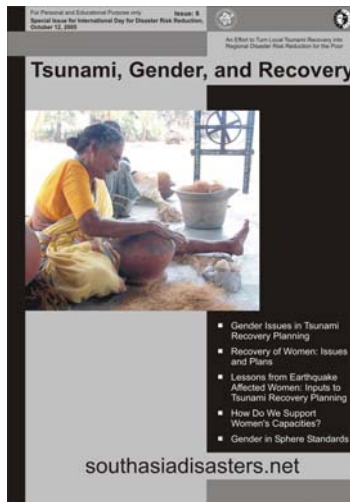
9. Exchange for 79% Change



8. From Kutch to Kashmir: Lessons for use



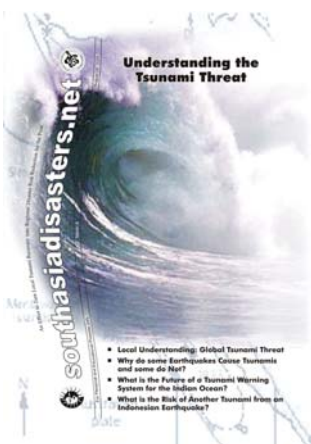
7. Disaster Risk Mitigation: Potential of Micro Finance for Tsunami Recovery



6. Tsunami, Gender, and Recovery



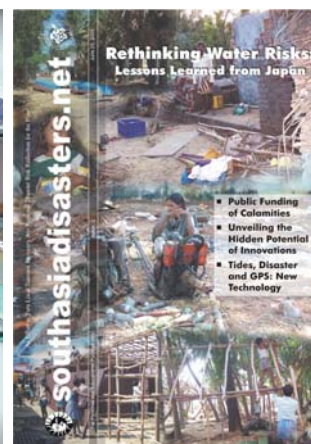
5. A Sphere of Regional Recovery



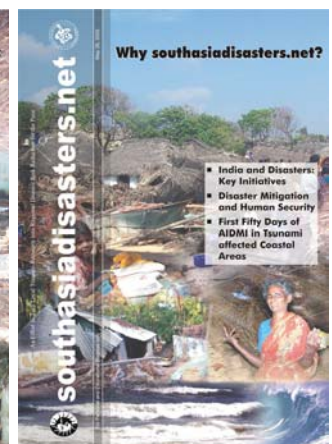
4. Understanding the Tsunami Threat



3. The Disaster Management Bill, 2005



2. Rethinking Water Risks: Lessons Learned from Japan



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Shaping HFA2 with focus on Gender and Risk Transfer Perspectives

Experience of 2013 Cyclone Phailin

Evidence from the grassroots is important to shape the global HFA process post 2015. AIDMI organised a round table with the poor working women of Puri district in Odisha, a coastal state of India, to meet Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction at United Nations International Strategy of Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) on December 20, 2013. The discussion focused on the key role of women in building resilience through livelihoods; integrating sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change risk with the existing work on women's hand. During the discussion, it was also decided that more opportunities should be offered to women to take local action by organising the dialogue in Odiya, Hindi and English along with developing a series of case studies in the Mahanadi Delta of Odisha, India. ■



DRR promoters with Margareta Wahlström, UNISDR.

Photo: AIDMI.

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ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE

411 Sakar Five, Near Natraj Cinema, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380 009 India. Tele/Fax: +91-79-2658 2962
E-mail: bestteam@aidmi.org, Website: <http://www.aidmi.org>, www.southasiadisasters.net