

Recovering from the Ruins



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA

FOLKEKIRKENS
ANSVAR
FOR HJER
SAM CHURCH AN



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

**Humanitarian aid to flood affected marginal families
in the two districts of Kendrapara and Jajpur in
Orissa:**

Lutheran World Service India (LWSI)/

DanChurchAid (DCA)/

**European Commission Directorate General for
Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)**



Director's Message

Dear Friends,

It gives me much pleasure to present this booklet on the LWSI/DCA/ECHO project, "**Humanitarian aid to flood affected marginal families in two districts of Orissa**", which was implemented in Kendrapara and Jajpur districts after the devastating monsoon rains of 2006.

The various programme components helped the people a great deal to overcome their immediate crisis and be prepared for future disasters.

The Food For Work intervention by building infrastructure facilities for the farming communities not only generated employment and created food security for the people who had lost their livelihoods, it also ensured food security of the most vulnerable in post disaster situations, the elderly, physically challenged and women.

The house building material assistance helped people to build improved houses, which are stronger than their traditional mud and straw built structures, to withstand better in future disasters. Construction of latrines improved the sanitation facilities and changed the sanitation habits of the people.

Tube wells with raised platforms built in areas with insufficient drinking water sources, benefited 1,200 families, and will provide uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water even at the time of high floods.

The impact of the timely agricultural input assistance provided to the share croppers and marginal farmers was well appreciated as it facilitated continuity of the winter crop, which otherwise would have been not possible.

LWSI faced some challenges during the implementation of the project. However, it was able to overcome those difficulties and finish the targeted activities within the project period. The quality of the implemented project

activities was highly appreciated by the ECHO Mission team. I, together with my colleagues, express our sincere gratitude to DanChurchAid (DCA), European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), the ecumenical fraternity, the Government of Orissa and the local self-government authorities for their support without which it would not have been possible for us to reach those in need of assistance. We are grateful to the communities for their steadfast resolve and sincere efforts to free themselves from their social and economic vulnerability. Last but not the least, I wish to thank my colleagues in LWSI who worked long hours under difficult conditions to achieve the project activities and goals successfully.

Neville Pradhan

Director

Lutheran World Service India

Foreword

Lutheran World Service India (LWSI) and Dan Church Aid (DCA) are ACT International members. DCA has been a major resource partner of LWSI in responding to natural calamities in India for the last three decades, with relief, rehabilitation and Community Based Disaster Management programmes. LWSI and DCA have been also cooperating over the years for long term rural development.

In the aftermath of the 2006 floods in Orissa, LWSI initiated emergency response and reconstruction activities under two projects. One with support from the ACT International network and the other with support from ECHO through DCA, Delhi. The latter was implemented in two districts of Orissa – Kendrapara and Jajpur.

The aim of this booklet is to document and develop communication material that will enable us to share knowledge and learning from this project, both within LWSI/DCA/ECHO and with other organizations.

The booklet gives an account of the various project activities accomplished within the period of six months, impact of the work, challenges faced and lessons learnt. The human interest stories and case studies help illustrate the impact of the short term intervention in mitigating the vulnerabilities of the affected communities with long term benefits.

Lessons learnt workshop : On completion of the project, a two-day workshop was organized for the LWSI and DCA project personnel to analyze and take note of the positive and negative factors that played a role during project implementation. LWSI and DCA representatives also participated in the lessons learnt workshop organized for ECHO partners in Orissa.

The ECHO fund of EURO 320,000 was mobilized through DCA for implementation of the flood response project by LWSI from November 2006.



The project was completed in April 2007. In this period, the project activities were closely monitored by DCA and ECHO teams, who visited the project areas thrice and interacted with the target people. The suggestions and recommendations made by these monitoring teams were fully incorporated during project implementation. During the final joint visit by LWSI/DCA/ECHO at the end of the project period, the monitoring mission expressed their satisfaction on the outcome of the project activities.

Finance: The physical achievements and financial transactions of the project were audited during and after the implementation period by three external auditors engaged by LWSI, DCA and ECHO. All these reports confirmed high quality accountability of the project.

K.G. Mathaikutty
Programme Coordinator
Disaster Risk Management,
Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Response, LWSI

Background of the Orissa Disaster

Natural calamities like drought, earthquakes, floods and cyclones cause major loss of human lives and livelihood. The United Nations Organization estimated that globally, 100,000 lives are lost and properties worth \$300 billion are damaged each year due to natural hazards. Developing countries, like India, become more vulnerable to natural hazards for lack of preventive mechanism.

The response that follow each disaster absorb a significant amount of resources, which could have been allocated for development efforts. Under the circumstances, the crying need is for improved policy to implement disaster management mechanism. This is becoming the focus of disaster related policies of governments as well as multilateral and bilateral agencies and NGOs. There has been an increasing realization among the development

agencies to make investment on disaster management and preparedness and mainstream it into ongoing development policies and programmes. Creating a culture of disaster preparedness would require coordinated efforts by and commitment from all relevant sectors – the media, government and civil society organizations.



Flooded villages

Monsoon rains of 2006 wreaked havoc in several states of India, including Orissa. The state of Orissa suffered four spells of flood in 2006. The government with all its initiatives and available resources could manage the first three phases. The last one in September was too huge to manage. The biggest river of Orissa – Mahanadi and its tributaries – overtopped the banks. Water reached danger level in a major dam upstream and an enormous quantity of water was released, submerging hundreds of villages

in Kendrapara, Jajpur, Cuttack, Puri and Bhadrak districts. About 2.3 million people were affected along with damage to crops and houses. Government could not reach all the victims with relief.

LWSI has been responding to natural calamities in India for more than three decades. In the aftermath of the 2006 floods in Orissa, LWSI/DCA/ECHO initiated an emergency response and reconstruction programme. This project was implemented in two districts of Orissa – Kendrapara and Jajpur. The project addressed issues of food security, restoration of agricultural livelihoods, creation of safe drinking water sources, improvement in sanitation and hygiene, and construction of semi-permanent shelter.

Need Assessment

LWSI has been implementing Community Based Disaster Preparedness for the past six years and Rural Development Projects for the past two decades in the coastal districts of Orissa. Based on the long and wide presence, LWSI has a well established rapport with the village communities in the vulnerable zones as well as with government bodies at the district and state levels. Therefore, LWSI received written requests from the affected villages as well as government officials to extend relief support.



Houses destroyed by the flood

Heeding the requests, detailed assessment was carried out by LWSI in the flood affected districts of Orissa from 1 to 6 September 2006. The aim was to assess the severity of the disaster, worst affected pockets, unmet needs and level of response. The LWSI team visited the coastal districts of Kendrapara, Jajpur and Jagatsinghpur. The report of this assessment has

provided vital statistics on the flood situation, its severity in different districts and needs of the affected vulnerable population.

An inter agency rapid assessment was conducted from 8 to 11 September 2006, in which LWSI participated along with representatives from ECHO, Action Aid, Oxfam and Catholic Relief Service. An inter agency meeting was held in Bhubaneswar where the flood assessment report was shared with many NGOs. Modalities to jointly address the emergency situation was discussed to avoid overlapping and duplication of efforts. The Orissa Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA) convened daily meetings to share the latest situation in the affected districts and to coordinate the response of government and non government agencies. LWSI participated regularly in these coordination meetings, which helped it in getting a larger picture of the flood situation.

Criteria for selection of beneficiaries

- ◆ Most severely affected families
- ◆ Resource poor families
- ◆ Female headed families
- ◆ Families having physically or mentally challenged members
- ◆ Old people without caregivers

Implementation of Planned activities

a) Goal:

The project was implemented with the overall goal to reduce the suffering of the flood affected people by providing for their basic needs and helping them return to normal life, as also to assist them in reducing their vulnerability to future disasters.

b) Objectives achieved and activities developed:

The project reached out to 8,515 flood affected families against the targeted 6,000, covering 34,800 persons, who are the most marginalized in the two chosen blocks of Kendrapara and Jajpur districts. All the

8,515 families were included in the Food for Work (FFW) programme. Furthermore, 6,320 families benefited as against the proposed 4,800 families from agricultural input support. Vegetable seed kits containing 10 varieties of vegetable seeds were distributed to 2,300 farmers and 1,533 families have been supported with 30 kg of certified paddy seeds each. The project extended material and cash support to the most marginalized families to restore their houses. Twelve new tube wells have been installed which is catering to the drinking water needs of 1200 families throughout the year, including flood time. Number of beneficiaries against each component is presented in the table below :

Sector	Activities
Food Security	Distribution of food grains through Food for Work scheme –15 days employment for 8,515 families to ensure food security for approx. 45 days
Rehabilitation	Agricultural support - distributed: - Groundnut seeds for winter cultivation to 2487 small and marginal farmers - Vegetable seeds to 2,300 farmers - Paddy seeds to 1,533 families
Shelter	Housing – 500 families were provided with technically improved basic construction materials
Sanitation	Construction of individual latrines – 500 families
Water	Installation of 12 tube wells with raised platforms – facilities for 1200 families

◆ *Assisted vulnerable families to reconstruct improved traditional houses*



House building materials

The number of families in Jajpur and Kendrapara districts was identified for distribution of house building materials, comprising precast concrete pillars and bamboos. The families completed building improved traditional houses by themselves, utilising salvaged materials from their damaged houses, along with the items provided to them.

◆ *Sunk tube wells with raised platforms in areas with insufficient drinking water sources. These community infrastructures will serve as preparedness against future disasters also*

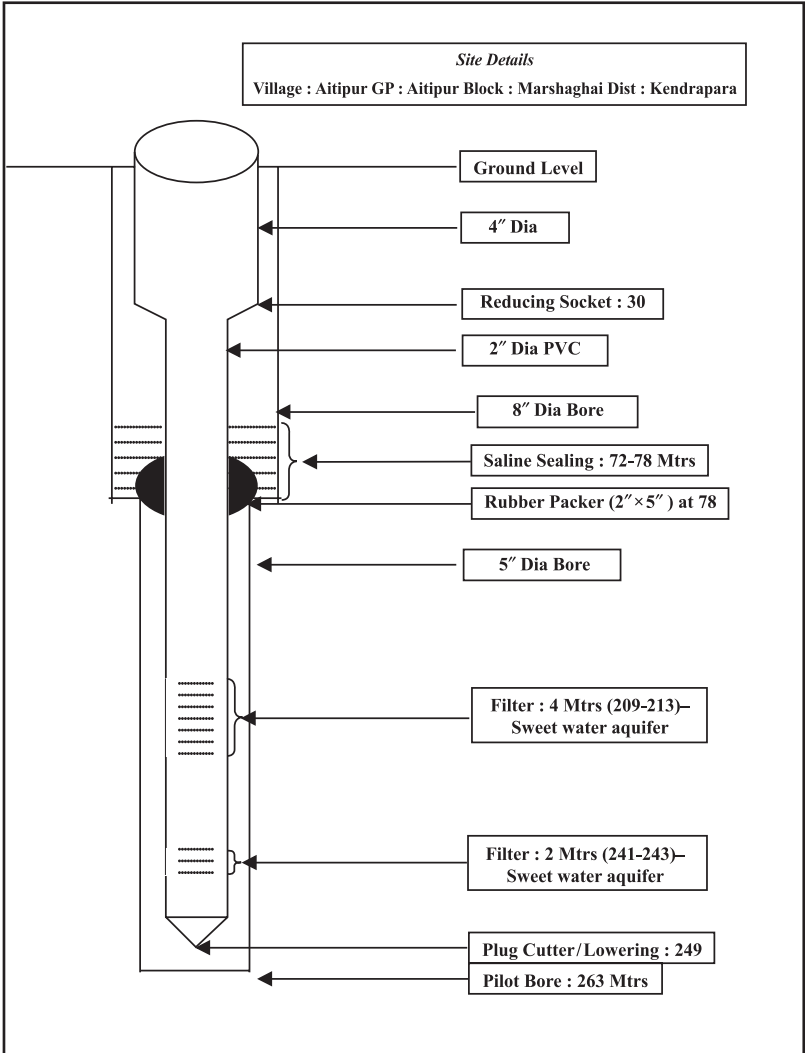
The project decided to go for medium to deep tube wells in Jajpur and Kendrapara districts. Preliminary site selections were done through village meetings involving women, who are the primary users of tube wells. Staffs were engaged for organising the village meetings and data collection.



Tube wells with high platforms

Villages having scarcity of safe drinking water were identified in consultation with local authorities and the people. The villages identified had no safe drinking water source within a radius of 500 metres. These villages were left out by the government department concerned because of the high cost involved in drilling as the underground strata was very

Cross-section/ Design of one of the 12 Deep Tubewell Bores (below ground level) installed under the current project



complex. LWSI had to motivate the service providers to make repeated attempts and was finally able to accomplish the full target successfully for which an extra month was required.

- ◆ *Repaired damaged village infrastructures through Food for Work programme*



Repairing village link road through FFW scheme

This was not in the original appeal. The plan was to support more families with dry food assistance, which could not be accomplished as the affected families began going back to their original dwellings. So the project decided to utilise the unspent fund for food grains to repair village infrastructures through Food for Work activities. This programme gave people access to food (rice and pulses), while at the same time developing necessary village infrastructures.

The FFW scheme in the flood affected areas evoked immense response from the communities and created a spiral impact on the neighbouring communities as well.

Description of the implementation methodology

The crisis phase activities were implemented by LWSI in consultation and close cooperation with the government administration and community leaders. LWSI staff visited the badly affected areas and finalised the beneficiary list. The selected families were provided with a token and were asked to come to a central place convenient to them to collect the relief goods. Help from the local church and government bodies expedited the work and made it more systematic. LWSI always complies with the Code of Conduct for emergency operations while following SPHERE standards. People were satisfied with the quality of the materials distributed. LWSI has received all distribution certificates from the local authorities at the end of the crisis phase operation.

Rehabilitation phase activities were also implemented by the LWSI team. Experienced staff members worked under close supervision of project leaders. Senior officers at Head Office provided assistance in strategy related matters and procurement.

What changes were aimed

- ◆ 95% target households have basic food security for approximately 45 days
- ◆ At least 95% of the target families are able to restore agricultural activities through input support
- ◆ 500 damaged houses of the most marginalized families are improved and have proper sanitary facilities
- ◆ Houses are protected from floods by raising of the homesteads
- ◆ Access to safe drinking water throughout the year, and even during floods, from the new and renovated water sources
- ◆ Significant decrease in post flood waterborne diseases through restoration/creation of new sources of potable water

What was achieved and the impact

- ◆ Targeting in the project was done very well. The programme focused on the most vulnerable like the Dalits, women, physically challenged people, single women headed households and older people who were not particularly assisted or reached out by the government and other agencies. Most of the times



FFW programme

these people are not able to claim their rights even in normal times, much less during emergencies

- ◆ The quality of project activities implemented by LWSI/DCA was highly appreciated by the ECHO Mission team
- ◆ The FFW component of the project has built longer term productive assets like ponds, irrigation canals and drainage channels. This programme met the immediate needs of generating employment and creating food security, while building infrastructures for the farming communities. Following advantages were observed in providing food grains (4 kg of rice and 400 gm of legume to each person) under the FFW scheme:
 - 45 days main food commodities were assured for 6,000 families of the operational areas, apart from neighbouring communities
 - Approximately 90,000 person days of employment was generated, which stopped the imminent threat of migration during the crucial period
 - Flood protection embankments, water bodies, and drainage and irrigation channels were constructed/reconstructed. One new earthen mound was built to be used as a refuge during future floods
 - Since the needy and resource poor people benefitted through their participation in this programme, equal participation of women and men were ensured
 - FFW projects were identified in consultation with the community people and local authorities. The programme was inclusive and respected the dignity of the affected people
 - Homestead raising taken up under FFW was very essential, given the community need. Apart from protection in times of flood, it has provided much needed space to the affected communities, who live more like in village slums



Rebuilding houses, restoring hopes

Bharati Bewa, a BPL (below poverty line) woman, lost her husband in the last floods. The floods had completely damaged her mud house. After the death of her husband, she along with her three daughters survived on small vending activities for livelihood. But after the current floods, they could not continue this business either as all crops were damaged. They were on the verge of starvation and could hardly rebuild their house.

The project supported her by providing house building materials in the form of 8 precast concrete pillars and 25 bamboos to help build a stronger house. Now the family is happy to live in its own house with dignity. They also got regular employment in FFW sites which assured them food security.

Groundnut seed support for winter crops

- This activity was implemented only in Jajpur district
- 2,487 farmers were assisted with 20 kg of groundnut seeds each
- 38.72 MT seeds were procured and distributed
- 793 sharecroppers and 511 marginal farmers belonged to scheduled castes
- Groundnut cultivation was revived over 522 acres of land, primarily by sharecroppers and marginal farmers.
- The agricultural operations created nearly 39,150 person days of local employment

Breaking the barrier to women's participation

Bilabalarampur Jena Sahi is a small hamlet with 37 Dalit families. Women members of two Self Help Groups decided to take part in excavation work for a tank and do pisciculture in the excavated tank. They wanted to increase their group income. At the beginning, this was not encouraged by the community, as women carrying earth load on their heads in the presence of other people was against the custom. An innovative idea was discussed with the men and women by the project staff. Improvised stretchers were

prepared using locally available gunny bags and two bamboo bars in each for lifting the earth. Everybody appreciated this and women participated gladly, being able to retain their dignity and respect the culture of the community.



Improvised stretchers for carrying earth

Women's participation in the Food for Work project was really very impressive as they found it an important intervention for reducing food insecurity and providing employment opportunities to the invisible women folk. The FFW programme minimised gender differentials to a significant extent.

Participation of the physically challenged

Namita Swain is an unmarried 26-year-old girl of Nicchipara village. Her polio afflicted legs have rendered her unable to walk. She lives with her elderly parents who cannot go out for work because of their age. The entire family was dependent on her elder brother's income from work as a daily labourer. Maintaining the four-member family on this meagre income was very difficult. After several meetings and motivational sessions, the community people agreed to let Namita get involved in the FFW work. "I maintained labour attendance at the FFW site for 15 days and became a part of my village development," says a happy Namita. "At the same time, I earned 60 kg rice and 6 kg pulses for my family. This involvement gave me a sense of pride, dignity and the feeling that I can do something that even the able bodied could not."

Challenges faced

The project proposed several activities for the flood affected people. Some of those had to be cut down because of non assurance of necessary funds at the time of need. Reduction of activities was done in consultation with the affected communities and the government authorities for prioritising the needs. People were looking for temporary shelter material (polythene sheet) after the floods. Based on the detailed survey conducted by the assessment team, it was understood that for the flood victims of Orissa, rehabilitation was a must as the people were living under improvised shelters. So with the available funds, rehabilitation activities were planned. Beneficiaries and local government authorities guided LWSI to prepare a need based rehabilitation package.

Fund assurance was not so encouraging at the beginning. LWSI asked for assistance from ECHO. As this took quite some time, rehabilitation activity could not be started in full swing immediately. Later, when ECHO funds were received for the same area, LWSI took up some of the activities proposed under the ACT appeal ASIN62. As the funding under ASIN62 improved, LWSI proposed to take up additional flood affected villages in the same districts to cover more families and avoid any overlapping of assistance.

Election for the local self government members in Orissa was declared in November 2006 and took place in February 2007. This caused some delays for the project. Because of election code of conduct, government authorities were not able to take decisions during this period. People were busy in the election process. Some of the operational areas being sensitive, staff visits and village meetings were restricted.

LRRD (Linking Relief and Rehabilitation with Development) as the process

LWSI was instrumental in linking relief and rehabilitation with development since the inception of the project. The relief and rehabilitation inputs provided by LWSI created a good opportunity for the flood victims of Kendrapara

and Jajpur districts to start development initiatives for future sustenance. Through the rehabilitation activities, LWSI not only facilitated improved shelter, sanitation and drinking water sources, but also psychosocial rejuvenation of the communities. The villagers were motivated to form their own organizations in the form of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs). They received various capacity building trainings, which helped to enhance their confidence and knowledge in developing safer communities and linkage with government development schemes. Besides, the communities were guided towards developing grain banks based on participatory approach, and were thus instrumental in addressing the issues of migration and food insecurity. The villages where Disaster Preparedness Projects were ongoing already, the DMTs (Disaster Management Task forces) mobilized significant amount of emergency corpus with which they organized relief and rescue operations during the floods. The trained DMTs are now in a position to address any type of disaster based on their knowledge of life saving skills. The Disaster Preparedness Projects played a pivotal role in cultivating self reliance through spontaneous and vibrant people's participation. The capacity building programmes contributed a lot in developing a sense of ownership, confidence and cohesiveness among members of the DMTs/SHGs/CBOs along the path of sustainable development. This transformation had a spiral effect on the neighbouring villages, which are showing interest to become partners of these communities. LWSI started with relief, continued with rehabilitation, followed by disaster preparedness, and finally led towards development.



Disaster leads to development

What We Practised

Needs assessment

- ◆ Skilled, rapid, multi sectoral assessment team was in place
- ◆ The assessment team was well capacitated and given proper orientation from time to time
- ◆ Joint exploration and dialogue paved way for an inclusive approach
- ◆ Needs assessment was ongoing
- ◆ Involvement of different stakeholders and the affected people provided more accuracy
- ◆ Included skilled female members in the assessment team which proved useful

Targetting

- ◆ Meaningful dialogue brought increased inclusiveness of the most needy – people with disabilities, single women headed households, old people and women
- ◆ This reduced the extent of resistance and divisiveness within the communities
- ◆ Joint exploration with communities offered local solutions to the age old barrier to women's participation
- ◆ A gender balance team was more effective in reaching out to women and their issues

Food for Work (FFW) vs. Cash for Work (CFW)

FFW (Advantage & Risk)	CFW (Advantage & Risk)
Only the needy people will participate	Non-needy people will also participate
Women have the control over food -- the wages	Women have no control over earning by them Risk of diversion of cash from food to non - essential items like alcohol
Beneficiaries, suppliers, transport companies,warehouse owners benefit	Beneficiaries and local trade benefit
Takes care of food strictly in the area Less chances of corruption	Risk of inflation if too big cash flow Chances of corruption more
Handling is a problem, logistics necessary	
Beneficiaries do not have control over the choice of grains	
Don't provide holistic support. Only rice and pulses are not enough. Other essential items (salt, oil, etc) should also be provided	Purchasing power of the beneficiaries increase
Needed when market cannot supply necessary food	Revitalizes the local economy
Food is consumed within a certain period	Saving for food security is not guaranteed

Lessons Learnt

- ✓ From the above comparisons, it is evident that the common choice would be a combination of food and cash
- ✓ Focus on building asset base for livelihoods offers long term resilience
- ✓ Agricultural input support must match with the crop cycle to get maximum benefit
- ✓ Most of the assisted families live on the margin and need diversified support
- ✓ FFW is more self targeting so it is necessary to integrate Cash for Work (CFW) to cater to whole family

- ✓ Combination of shelter and toilet was a good idea
- ✓ Design of the shelters and the materials provided will enable faster rebuilding of houses in future floods
- ✓ Sanitation habits are slowly changing, the new model is being adopted by non-assisted families
- ✓ Emphasis should be given on peer monitoring during the rehabilitation process
- ✓ Better to adopt full coverage than partial coverage
- ✓ Should integrate preparedness components. For example raised platforms of tube wells will provide safe drinking water even during floods

Value addition: working with the government and local self government

LWSI/DCA was in constant touch with government authorities at various levels for area allocation, certification, etc. Coordination and sharing continued with government and ECHO partner agencies throughout the project period. This helped in avoiding overlapping and other issues. At district level coordination meetings, areas of operation were also discussed and allocated to different agencies to supplement government efforts. LWSI and DCA were already major and active response agencies with existing credibility. LWSI involvement with disaster preparedness activities in the area has been a contribution towards framing government policies on disaster management.

Cordial relations with the respective Panchayats (local self governments) yielded a synergy in terms of backward forward linkages during beneficiary selection and distribution. The entire project life cycle, from planning to implementation and monitoring, reflected this enhanced social capital, ultimately helping to cultivate self reliance among the communities. The inspired communities and dynamic local administrative support have created safety nets to lead the people towards a better tomorrow.

What they (communities) visualize

The short term humanitarian intervention came to an end in April 2007. But

the residual effect of this rehabilitation programme is evident on the operational communities. The people of the flood affected areas of Kendrapara and Jajpur districts are now quite confident of facing future disasters with the help of the mitigation skills they have learnt. Trained members of the community organizations and self help groups now know the art of mobilizing government and other external agencies for assistance. They have their own organizations which can make future plans for the communities. They have their own action plans with strategic thrust on who will do what. The people visualize a safer community with the help of trained human and capital resources. They have, therefore, realized the importance of *“let us prepare ourselves before it strikes again”*. And the confident women folk can say *“we shall overcome”*. The enhanced confidence, the gained knowledge, the vibrant people’s organizations and the rejuvenated communities of Kendrapara and Jajpur districts of Orissa have been the good results of the Project.



More confident of facing the future

Basic Information about the Project

- ◆ Humanitarian aid in Kendrapara and Jajpur districts
- ◆ Coverage: Two Blocks, 11 Gram Panchayats (sub divisions) and 55 villages. Population -37,500; Families-7,500. Outreach: 6,000 most vulnerable household
- ◆ Project implementation period: 1st November 2006 to 30th April 2007
- ◆ Co-implemented programme

Agricultural Support to Affected Marginal Farmers

Paddy Seed Support

District	No. of G.P.	Paddy Seed (kg)	Family covered			Total
			S.C.	O.B.C.	G.C.	
Kendrapara	5	38000	199	895	106	1200
Jajpur	4	9990	232	101	0	333
Total	9	45990	431	996	106	1533

Vegetable Seed Kits

District	No. of G.P.	Vegetable Seed Kit	Family covered			Total
			S.C.	O.B.C.	G.C.	
Kendrapara	5	1100	539	370	191	1100
Jajpur	5	1200	802	376	22	1200
Total	10	2300	1341	746	213	2300

Groundnut Seed Support (Jajpur District)

No. of G.P.	No. of Village	S.C.		O.B.C.		G.C.		Total No. of Farmers	Coverage (Acre)	Total Qty (Kg)
		Share Cropper	Marginal Farmer	Share Cropper	Marginal Farmer	Share Cropper	Marginal Farmer			
8	21	793	511	356	469	325	33	2487	516.26	38720

G.P. -- Gram Panchayat (sub division) S.C. -- Scheduled Caste O.B.C. -- Other Backward Caste G.C. -- General Caste

Food Security (Food for Work)

District	No. of G.P	No. of Village	Total no. of Projects	Tank/ Canal	Vill. Link Road	Earthen Mound	Homestead Raised	Village Cleaning	Person Days of Work	Foodgrains Utilized	
										Rice (Kg)	Pulses (Kg)
Kendrapara	5	25	82	28	25	2	6	21	55000	220000	22000
Jajpur	5	25	73	13	30	-	7	23	39999	160000	16000
Total	10	50	155	41	55	2	13	44	949999	380000	38000

G.P. -- Gram Panchyat (sub division)

No. of Families Benefited

SL No.	District	S.C.	S.T.	O.B.C.	G.C.	W.H.F	Aged Person	Disabled	HIV Infected	Total
1	Kendrapara	2374	-	2169	360	210	208	13	0	5334
2	Jajpur	2612	-	526	-	20	13	10	0	3181
Grand Total		4986	-	2695	360	230	221	23	0	8515

S. C. – Scheduled Caste O.B.C.– Other Backward Caste W.H.F.– Women Headed Families S. T. – Scheduled Tribe
 G.C.– General Caste

Support with Technically Improved Shelter Materials & Latrines

District	No. of G.P	No. of Houses	No. of Latrine	Family Benefitted				Physically Challenged
				S.C.	O.B.C.	G.C.	Women Headed	
Kendrapara	5	350	350	100	205	45	41	3
Jajpur	5	150	171	125	46	0	25	8
Total	10	500	521	225	251	45	66	11

G.P. -- Gram Panchayat (sub division) S.C. -- Scheduled Caste O.B.C. -- Other Backward Caste G.C. -- General Caste

Installation of 12 Deep Tube Wells with Raised Platforms in Kendrapara

Name of the G.P.	Name of the Village	No. of families benefited				Total	Depth (Mtrs)
		S.C.	O.B.C.	G.C.	Total		
Aitpur	Maharakul	7	33	12	52	260	
	Bilabalarampur	6	38	17	61	250	
	Aitpur	12	35	0	47	263	
	Amrutamonipaina	11	24	6	41	261	
	Dihabalarampur	6	38	12	56	248	
	Kumathi	15	30	0	45	325	
Parakula	Narayanpur (A)	40	20	0	60	310	
	Pikarali (Tala Sahi)	16	35	0	51	305	
Mangarajpur	Ratanpur	11	43	0	54	276	
Antei	Pailo	3	30	0	60	257	
Jamapara	Jamapara	13	30	6	49	257	
Mehendinagar	Karandiapatma	7	50	5	62	266	
		174	406	58	638		

G.P. -- Gram Panchayat (sub division) S.C. -- Scheduled Caste O.B.C. -- Other Backward Caste G.C. -- General Caste

Case Studies

Homestead Raising

Losing assets, fighting for survival and mourning for the victims are traumatising experiences for villagers during floods. By taking up homestead raising, the people of Patna Jena Sahi believe such harrowing events will now belong to the past...

After the 2006 floods, a great part of Patna Jena Sahi, a Dalit village in Jajpur district, was under water. The top of the houses resembled little islands. For more than three months the villagers were fighting for survival. Houses, crops, domestic animals – all had been destroyed or lost, leaving the people homeless and resourceless. Migration was their only option for livelihood, slowing down the reconstruction of the village.

To prevent such an event from repeating itself, the people participated in the raising of their homestead by approximately 14 feet, which is above the floodwater level recorded in the last three decades. United, men and women both took part in the work but the women particularly involved themselves. The group leader, Susama Jena, explained: “We felt this was an important



project that would serve the whole of our community. We wanted to take responsibilities.”

Each and every community member is proud of the work achieved. Through their efforts, the houses, their personal belongings as well as the food and water supplies should be protected from any future floods. Together they are ready to face the monsoons. For the first time, fear has abandoned them. All are confident in not having to desert their village once more: “The water will not be able to touch our houses. Our homes will be safe and our everyday life will continue,” said Susama Jena.

LWSI has been intervening in this community for the past two years under its Disaster Preparedness Project. Earlier, women were restricted to their households. It was unthinkable for them to gather and sit down with the men for meetings. Through sustained efforts of LWSI staff, the situation has changed. Women have become decision makers, participating in meetings and influencing their peers. The current project represented another opportunity for them to prove their willingness for change and incredible capacities.

Shelter Restoration

Houses of 110 Dalit families in Mahakalpada Harijan Sahi were drowned in 9 feet of water, forcing them to flee their homes. They have taken measures for future floods with improved housing ...

The floods of August and September 2006 devastated the small village of Mahakalpada Harijan Sahi in Jajpur district. A majority of the houses were partially or fully destroyed by the water. After spending one month in the local school situated a couple of kilometres away on high land, the people returned to what was left of their village.



The men restored and reconstructed the houses with the materials locally available, namely bamboo, mud and thatch. The houses built were low and had little ventilation. During the next flood, disaster was bound to recur. Measures had to be taken.

First of all, the houses were elevated over the water level experienced during the past floods. All the villagers, men and women together, participated in raising the

homestead by 12 feet. The next step was to improve the resistance of the houses. Eighteen families were badly affected and did not have the resources to restore their homes. They were provided with precast concrete pillars and bamboo splits to build a resistant structure. "This year I will be able to stay in the village even if there is a new flood, thanks to the homestead raising and to my new house," confides Bhagirathi Mollick, the treasurer of the Disaster Mitigation Team (DMT). He never wants to leave his house or his village again because of floods.

Beyond the 18 families who benefited from these homes, it is the entire village who has understood the necessity and the impact of such changes. Indeed 15 other families in the village have undertaken the construction of new houses on their own initiative. Homestead raising has also become a common practice, bringing security to the people.

"We are very poor and our expectations are small. So are our dreams, but when it is realized we are very happy." Through these words Akhoy Mollick, the DMT secretary, spoke on behalf of all the villagers.

Toilet Facilities

Open air defecation is a common practice in the backward villages of rural India. After the difficulties encountered during the floods, an entire village was determined to change its habits for a more hygienic lifestyle

Open air defecation not only had severe sanitation impacts, it also stressed the difference of status between men and women. Indeed children, women and men all used their villages' surrounding fields. "When there was a man around we couldn't go and it was very hard for us to find an isolated place during the day," remembers Susama Jena from Patna Jena Sahi (Jajpur district). With the floods, greater difficulties awaited them.



Sasi Rekha Mollick from Mohakalpada Harijan Sahi (Jajpur district) recalls the precarious sanitary conditions experienced. The men benefited from a temporary latrine. They had installed bamboo sticks in the few branches of a tree that were sticking out of the water. Despite this, its use was perilous and unhygienic, adding to the spread of diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria.

But the women suffered the most from the drastic circumstances. They did not have access to the temporary latrine. They would hide and use newspaper sheets and then throw them away in the water. If they didn't have the necessary privacy to do so, they had to wait till the night to go outside. Even then they had to defecate in a standing position with water up to their chest.

These practices were not specific to the village of Mohakalpada Harijan Sahi. In every affected village, fulfilling such basic human needs had become a daily challenge. Now, thanks to the construction of latrines on the villages' raised homesteads, the people hope never to face such conditions again.

"At the beginning it was very difficult to use the latrines as we were not habituated," confessed Susama Jena. "We had never used any before." Today her village can boast of almost one latrine per family. The people have become conscious of the positive impacts of such a change and have gradually accustomed themselves. Susama adds, "We understand the hygienic benefits but they are not the only thing we have gained. We have found privacy!"

Food for Work

Suprabha, Redoni and Kamala, among many other destitute women, found food security thanks to the Food for Work programmes...

Suprabha Behra is only 24 years old. But life has inflicted upon her frail, youthful shoulders the full responsibility of an entire family. Both her parents are paralyzed and her brother is mentally challenged. She has to earn, feed and take care of all the family members. In her remote village, Pikarali in



Redoni serving water to workers

Kendrapara district of Orissa, people are poor and work is scarce to come by. Sometimes she is engaged by cow owners to clean the dung from their houses. But it is not easy to find even that work every day. When reduced to abject penury she has to even go out and beg.

Redoni Mahapatra of Ratanpur village in Kendrapara district is hardly 26. But she has undergone a lifetime of suffering. While a mere child of 14, she was married to Bichitra Mahapatra. Her husband was a widower with two children. After the death of his first wife, he was forced by his parents to marry Redoni against his wishes. Bichitra used to fight with Redoni and ill treat her. She was not given any food. Out of sheer desperation she started eating raw drumsticks for survival. Her in-laws drove her out of their house saying she had gone mad. She went to stay with her poor parents. Now she has lost her parents and has to entirely fend for herself. She tries to find work in people's houses but does not get it all the time. She has no support and is all alone.

Kamala Nayak is a 37-year-old widow of Amrutamanipatna village in Kendrapara district. Her husband died four years back from heart attack.

She has four daughters, of whom the eldest is deaf and dumb. It's very hard life for her. She tried to make ends meet by working as an agricultural labour. But after last year's floods, she lost that work also. Cultivable land has become salinated and there is 2-3 feet of sand over it. She and her daughters are just about managing to keep alive with help from Kamala's father who too is poor.

There are many more women in similar plights whose suffering and hardships have been aggravated by the heavy rains and floods of August - September - October 2006 in Orissa. Most of their mud houses have been washed away and they are living in their damaged huts or makeshift dwellings under polythene sheets.

Under this project, several Food for Work (FFW) programmes were taken up in Kendrapara and Jajpur districts of Orissa to construct village link roads and excavate irrigation tanks. Total 360 MT rice and 36 MT pulses were distributed under this programme to the flood affected community members to provide them food security while helping built infrastructures that would benefit them.



Suprabha keeping attendance at an FFW site

Suprabha, Redoni and Kamala, among many other destitute women, found food security through these FFW projects. What they were however worried about was what would happen after the programme was over. Each person/family was entitled to 15 days work that would provide them food grains for 45 days.

Suprabha has studied till Class IX but don't have the "contacts" to find work in the government primary school. Since most of the other women are illiterate and unskilled, they are desperate for some vocational training whereby they can ensure minimum earnings to take care of their families and themselves. What the FFW programmes did was to ensure immediate food security for the community members and provide some relief from their endless misery. It also created irrigation infrastructures, which can be used for community pisciculture as well. This will in the long run help enhance their income generation options.

"Now I can sleep at night without having to worry about work for the coming 45 days," said Jyotsna Pradhan, who was working at an FFW site in Pikarali village. Jyotsna's husband has deserted her and she has to take care of her old mother and 4-year-old daughter.



Lutheran World Service India (LWSI)

LWSI is the country programme of the Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service, Geneva, Switzerland, which acts on behalf of the communion of Lutheran Churches worldwide.

LWF is a founding member of Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies.

LWSI is also a founding member of AZEECON (Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network) which brings together the four LWF Asian field programmes – India, Nepal, Cambodia and Bangladesh.

The main objective of LWSI is **to empower women and men of disadvantaged communities to enhance their quality of life by cultivating self reliance**. Assistance is rendered to those in need irrespective of caste, creed, nationality, sex, religion or political conviction. LWSI has been implementing **Disaster Response** and **Integrated Development Projects** since 1974 and **Community Based Disaster Preparedness Projects** from 1998. It currently works in the states of West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Tamil Nadu.



DanChurchAid (DCA)

DCA is a faith-based and ecumenical, non-missionary organisation rooted in the Danish National Evangelical Lutheran Church. It carries out its work with the objective: **"To help and be advocates of oppressed, neglected and marginalised groups in poor countries and to strengthen their possibilities of a life in dignity."**

Established in 1922, DCA is today one of the major Danish humanitarian non governmental organisations, working with local partners, churches and non-religious civil organisations to assist the poorest of the poor. Aid is given regardless of race, creed, political or religious affiliation.

DCA's three broad programmatic areas are **Advocacy, Emergency Aid and Development Assistance.**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)

The European Union as a whole (i.e., the Member States and the Commission) is one of the world's main humanitarian aid donors. The Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) is the service of the European Commission responsible for this activity.

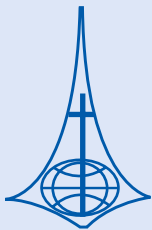
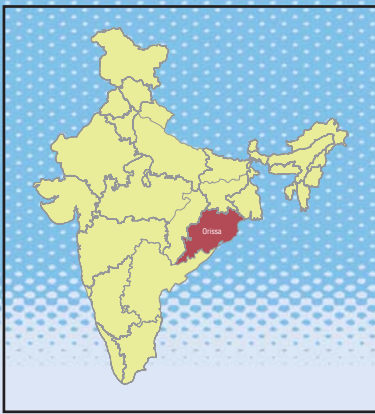
Through ECHO funding, some 18 million people are helped each year in more than 60 countries through 200 partners (NGOs, ICRC, and UN agencies like the UNHCR and the WFP). The Humanitarian Aid Office spends more than €700 million a year on financing humanitarian projects.

The European Union's mandate to ECHO is to provide emergency assistance and relief to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflict outside the European Union. The aid is intended to go directly to those in distress, irrespective of race, religion or political convictions.

The Code of Conduct *

1. The humanitarian imperative comes first.
2. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
3. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.
4. We shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy.
5. We shall respect culture and custom.
6. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
7. Ways shall be found to involve programme beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
8. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
9. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
10. In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognise disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.

* *Principles of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief*



LWSI



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid



Photo Credits : Mr. Viggo Brun, DCA & LWSI Staff

Lutheran World Service India

84, Dr Suresh Sarkar Road, Kolkata 700 014

Phone: 91 33 2284 9200/9730/9731

Fax: 91 33 2244 3062 • Email: lws_i@vsnl.com