



Empowered communities mobilise government funds

To increase their flood safety

Location:
Bihar

Partners:
Caritas India

Author:
Dushyant Mohil/ Marlou Geurts



Mr Achhelal Padean, DRR committee member in Booktha village, Bihar
Photo credits: Marlou Geurts/ Netherlands Red Cross

Women community members in Booktha village, Bihar
Photo credits: Marlou Geurts/ Netherlands Red Cross

The northern state Bihar is one of the least developed states in India, and almost yearly hit by serious floods: every year during the monsoon season, the main rivers cause serious damages, and often loss of lives and livestock. Floods in Bihar over the last 3 years have affected 26.2 million people and claimed 1,000 lives with property damage from floods in 2015-16 Rs 119 crore/ 15 million Euro, crop damage in 2015-16 worth Rs 519 crore/ 66 million euro.

PfR has been supporting local communities in 90 villages in 6 districts in Bihar since 2011 (89 villages in phase 2). Booktha in one of the villages where PfR has been active. During the first phase PfR supported the villagers to conduct a hazard, vulnerability and capacity mapping, based on which a risk analysis was done. The risk analysis provided the basis for the Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, consisting of a contingency plan for better flood preparedness and a village development plan aiming at reducing the disaster risk. The villagers themselves now monitor, update and implement the DRR action plan.

Best step is that local communities bring these DRR action plans to in the Gram Sabha meetings where they are being discussed and approved. Thus way, the plans become part of the Panchayat (local) government planning. Panchayat leaders have then a strong instrument to engage in conversations at the municipal level and district level, where funding decisions are being taken.

All villages in India should develop and implment DRR plans, as it really has changed our lives in a positive way: our experiences should be replicated !

Mr Achhelal Padean, DRR committee member in Booktha



www.partnersforresilience.nl | partnersforresilience@redcross.nl



Woman explaining a village risk map in Bihar, India.
Photo credit: Marlou Geurts/ Netherlands Red Cross

'For any new development in our village, we now first consider the possible risks and make sure that planned investments are risk proof'

Next to that, with PfR support and training, different government schemes and subsidies could be mobilised for the implementation of both household as well as community level DRR measures, which led to changes people could not even imagine.

Development Programmes leveraged:

- MNREGA for ecosystem restoration: plantation work, de-siltation of wetlands, rejuvenation of wetlands
- Pradhan mantri awas yojna: raising houses, construction of houses
- Swach Bharat Abhiyan/ Panchayat Swakshta mission: for constructing toilets and raising plinths
- Panchayat vikas nidhi scheme: for development works

Total amounts of leverage funds:

- 2011-2013: 1.2 million Euro
- 2014: 66,980 Euro
- 2015: 200,000 Euro
- 2016: 800,000 Euro
- 2017: 200,000 Euro
- 2018: 500,000 Euro

Also in Booktah village, funds have been mobilised for housing, elevated entrances, sanitation, roads, better seeds, organic farming, fruit trees, digging or rejuvenation of ponds, introduction of fishing, and embankment construction.

When asking villagers about the most significant change, they all answered the same: 'the village is well organised now, and we have learnt how to approach the government and how to access funding for our DRR Action Plans'.

Mr Achhelal Padean, DRR committee member in Booktha, recommended: *'all villages in India should develop and implement DRR plans, as it really has changed our lives in a positive way: our experiences should be replicated!'*

