# India

# Upscaling community resilience through ecosystem based disaster risk reduction



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

#### **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

In India, water mediated hazards such as floods and droughts cause immense loss to human well-being and environment. The risk is accentuated by loss and degradation of ecosystems which act as natural buffers and provide a safety net to communities and landscapes. Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation (Eco-DRR) approaches are significant pathways to reduce disaster risk and achieve sustainable development.

The Partners for Resilience (PfR) consortium members, with support from European Union (EU-DEVCO) and Netherlands Red Cross are aiming to upscale community resilience through Eco - DRR approaches in select landscapes of India. Overall objective of the three years (2019-2021) project is to upscale Eco-DRR approaches into practice and policy making for building community resilience to water induced disaster risk. Scalable models of community-based Eco-DRR will be developed, learning from field sites in Odisha, Bihar and Gujarat, wherein the project will design and implement measures for building resilience towards water-mediated disaster risks. The project will build on the principles of Integrated Risk management (IRM).

The project also aims to work with leading knowledge centres to develop training modules on Eco-DRR and mainstreaming Eco-DRR approaches in regional policies.



# MAIN PILLARS/ ACTIVITIES

#### **COMMUNITIES MAIN ACTIVITIES:**

- Implementation of Eco-DRR at community level
- » Implementation of Eco-DRR actions through community-based disaster risk reduction plans
- Evidence base for policy support
- » Drafting and dissemination of policy briefs on Eco-DRR approaches in urban and peri-urban spaces, with focus on Wetlands and Eco DRR

**Capacity development** 

» Contextualized training curricula and modules on Eco-DRR, based on IRM methodology

#### **BENEFICIARIES:**

12,000 households (c. 60,000 people) in Tampara Basin in Odisha; Kanwar Jheel Basin in Bihar; and Suigam Taluka in Gujarat

#### **TARGET AREA:**

4000 ha of ecosystems restored and protected

- **PARTNER / TARGET GROUPS:**
- » Panchayati Raj Institutions
- » PfR strategic planning partners and local civil society organizations
- » Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Ministry of Urban Housing Affairs
- » Capacity development institutions (National Institute for Disaster Management, Indian Red Cross and Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

- Participative Eco-DRR interventions are implemented in field sites
- Key ministries acknowledge wetland restoration as Eco-DRR approach for reducing water induced risks in urban landscapes
- Selected national institutes adopt curriculum on Eco-DRR to support policy and practice mainstreaming. Modules are integrated in training calendars
- Resource package of proof of concept on Eco-DRR for CSOs, government and other stakeholders

#### **METHODS AND APPROACHES:**

The project will be organized along the following three work packages aimed at building replicable and scalable models for Eco-DRR. The graphic below showcases project methodology and approach:

#### WP 1: Implementation of Eco-DRR at community level

- Landscape scale risk assessments
- Hazard, Community, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HCVA)
- Ecosystem Services Shared Assessment (ESSVA)
- Community based Eco DRR plans
- Implementation through integrated development plans

#### WP 2: Evidence for Policy support

- Drafting and dissemination of policy briefs on Eco-DRR approaches in urban and peri-urban spaces;
- Guidelines and policy prescriptions for prioritizing wetlands from a DRR and CCA perspective

#### WP 3: Capacity Development

- Capacity building and orientation on Eco DRR approaches
- Knowledge dissemination workshops





# FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/eco-drr

Wetlands International South Asia Mr Dhruv Verma dhruv.verma@wi-sa.org International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Ms Aditi Kapoor Aditi.KAPOOR@ifrc.org

### Project Partners: SEEDS, NetCoast and Indian Red Cross Society





Indian Red Cross Society

The Netherlands

Red Cross







With support of the European Union



