

Output and Learning Areas:

This year WSP worked to address risks posed by water scarcity: droughts and unregulated water flow: floods. It successfully executed cross sector partnership initiatives for drought mitigation in Gujarat. This included repair of a check dam in Dhokawada (Patan district) by local village farmers with technical and part financial support by DMI on the request that the benefits must reach a larger number of people at a lower profit margin by the maintenance body. The capacity of another check dam is being jointly enhanced by village communities in Timba (Surendranagar district), government authorities and DMI, thus representing three way partnership for water security.

WSP also organised urban consultations with three flood affected communities and administrators in relation to the 2000 floods in Ahmedabad. The findings of this consultation and over 100 flood victims' voices were presented at the Third World Water Forum (May 2003) in Kyoto, Japan. DMI was invited to chair a global panel on Urban Floods Mitigation during this international meeting of water stakeholders: city planners, governments, NGOs and experts from six cities in four continents. It was also invited to have a dialogue with Ministers from various countries on Water and Poverty. It shared the Indian experience in water (in)security with the South Asian Network for Water, contributed to the water and climate change agenda development, and joined the Asian Development Bank—NGO group on setting the water agenda. "Why floods and droughts are not on the water sector agenda worldwide," commented Mehul Pancholi on listening to the report of the Third World Water Forum.

Local communities reviving a traditional water source in Charanka village. Having learnt about the inseparable link between water security and livelihoods, this year WSP and LRF activity centres conducted joint work in various areas.

In the areas of research WSP developed a Water Audit and Resource Assessment tool to assess the water needs, supply and consumption patterns in the drought-affected areas of Gujarat. The Sphere standards were used as indicators for this assessment tool. To consolidate its learning, WSP developed an implementation flow chart for water structure, to ensure participatory and cost effective water structures. Ten community water structures (tanks, wells and rain water harvesting) were implemented in partnership with communities in the earthquake and drought affected districts of Gujarat.



Having learnt about the inseparable link between water security and livelihood, this year WSP and LRF activity centres conducted joint work in various areas. Capacity building exercises, that covered Safer Building Construction and Rainwater Harvesting Structures were organised for Banaskantha DWCRA Mahila SEWA Association (BDMSA) for 30 villages. Surendranagar Mahila Bal Vikas Mandal (SMBVM), another CBO active in drought prone areas of Gujarat, was trained in PRA tools for use in 28 affected villages. "Demand for such training from panchayats is enormous. We have to find time to reach them," said Mehul Pancholi.

Action Planning:

This year WSP learnt the lesson that water security is inextricably linked to the three other securities that DMI works on: livelihood, habitat and food security. Therefore in the coming year WSP plans to further strengthen its links with other activity centres. It also plans to pursue and consciously absorb appropriate water research and technology for economically viable and sustainable water structures.

WSP will set up a Water Resource Centre (WRC) that will focus on rural and urban water issues, work towards mitigating floods and may be more active in local, regional or national level networks. It will lay a greater emphasis on disseminating WSP's disaster experience through local and national courses. The new cycle for implementation of water structures will be piloted and improved to ensure a community sensitive and cost effective process. "Floods and Cities and Climate Change Adaptation are being developed as priority areas for action in 2003-04," said Mihir Bhatt.

F. Bhuj Reconstruction Programme (BRP):

The Bhuj Reconstruction Project was the result of DMI's recognition that the Bhuj slums have been mostly left out by the 2001 Gujarat earthquake recovery process. Field learning drawn from DMI's past work in Bhuj—conducting a rapid damage assessment in Bhuj and coordinating relief—unearthed this neglect of slums in the 'mainstream' rehabilitation process. Introduced one year after the earthquake BRP-I focused on ensuring the basic rights and needs of the poorest of the earthquake-affected victims in 11 of the 37 slums in the city of Bhuj. It adopted an integrated approach to disaster relief by intervening in the following areas:

- Livelihood Relief
- Shelter Security
- Right to Information

The active participation of community volunteers from Bhuj slums as members of the BRP Team has helped in realising the twin approach to participation:

a. Instrumental Participation for effective and improved recovery programme and

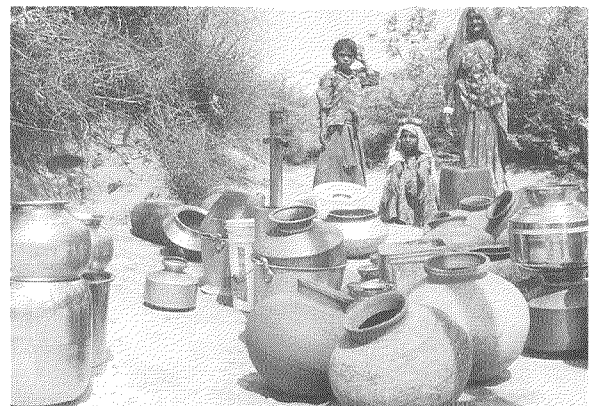
b. Transformative Participation for capacity building of local communities in risk reduction.

Manoj and Amar Jyoti Nayak provided ongoing and timely guidance, especially in making innovative use of Social Audit in Bhuj slums, and in project guidance and programme development.

Output and Learning Areas:

In the past year, DMI through the BRP has worked in 14 slums of Bhuj. It has provided livelihood

When women save time from waiting for water, they work. Women, water and work are inseparable in rural Gujarat.



assistance to 650 families and shelter assistance to 135 families. It set up 4 information centres as nodal points within slums, providing access to a wide range of publications related to disaster risk mitigation, relevant government initiatives, and DMI activities. These centres are managed by local slum volunteers and were one of the means of building capacities of the local communities.

The "Crisis to Celebration" centre was set up in Bhuj slums to document the community experiences of the Bhuj earthquake and to display their processes of recovery.



A range of additional activities was mobilized to build the capacity of the 16 slum volunteers who worked as a part of the Bhuj Team. These included local training cycles in the slums, regular review of volunteers, facilitated interaction with other NGOs, government officers and international disaster management researchers and, active participation in programme review and livelihood relief. A larger allocation of authority and responsibility to volunteers that helped achieve community ownership to the project was the highlight of this year's activity. "The team in Bhuj, drawn from the local affected communities, has done extra-ordinary work with ordinary and limited means," said Himanshu Kikani while commenting on the presentation of the activities by the BRP Team.

Afat thi Utsav, also known as the Crisis to Celebration (C2C) centre was set up in Bhuj slums to document the community experiences of the Bhuj Earthquake and to display their processes of recovery. The C2C centres are community-run tools for collective recovery and resilience. They will house educational facilities, community trainings, and revolving exhibitions. While serving the local community needs, they will act as a visitor centre that functions on the philosophy of sustainable tourism. They are constructed according to traditional building methods (Kutchi Bhunga) and located in the Bhuj slums to provide the outside visitor with authentic insight to community recovery. The C2C centres will act as a means of socio-cultural conservation and future rehabilitation processes. Every month it attracts 35 to 40 visitors from outside Bhuj and Gujarat. A Child Education Centre to promote risk reduction education amongst children has also been built in Bhuj.

Action Planning:

The Bhuj Reconstruction Project-Phase II (BRP-II) will continue to build on DMI's previously successful and demand-driven work in the Bhuj slums. The expanded scope of Phase II will aim to incorporate the findings of a range of surveys, assessments and community demands during the first phase. In addition to the initial emphasis on livelihood relief and shelter security, water and food securities will be addressed as the primary needs for the successful recovery of the Bhuj slums.

A strengthened emphasis on capacity building will be prompted, for community-based solutions to community-based needs. This will involve setting up two types of community organisations: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Small Businesses (CCISB) and Slum Area Committees (SAC). These will accelerate the recovery process and sustain future gains. The community-generated, participatory nature of these organisations aims to assist the slum inhabitants in their transition from recovery beneficiaries to rehabilitation partners.

The CCISB is a consequence of the learning that livelihoods restoration demand links to various business development systems, beyond assets. CCISB was thus initiated as an outgrowth of DMI's Livelihood Relief work, to provide a formal framework of business contacts, financial services, and ongoing professional support. The CCISB networks will facilitate improved access to career training, markets, suppliers, and distributors. Through the CCISB, its internal and financial services, the capacities of the participating members and in turn, their communities are strengthened to better withstand unforeseen crisis. Currently, this proposed organisation is a collection of existing LRF beneficiaries but will grow to include outside resources and other interested parties. GSDMA has shown interest in this work and is considering a proposal for support.

The BRP-II information strategy will continue to establish information centres in the slums and publish and distribute disaster awareness material. It will expand to include Town Planning activities such as Bhuj Town Plan tracking, GIS mapping of slum communities, and develop slum community plans and projects. A partnership between the Bhuj municipality, DMI, and SAC's will be built to this end.

G. Building Peace and Protection (BPP):

BPP is born out of DMI's conflict related relief work after the 2002 Gujarat riots. Drawing lessons from this experience, BPP aims to serve communities needs for peace, protection and human security in the context of fear and trauma generated by acts of communal violence.

Its approach is holistic, that satisfies basic human needs of affected communities and initiates activities to cultivate peace in the area. Children and youth are its primary target groups within the community. Its mandate is not just to ideologically stand against violence through advocacy, but also to work with people attempting to recover from violence.

Output and Learning Areas:

DMI's response to the 2002 Gujarat riots was rooted in the dictum, "let us take a stand with the affected victims." DMI's contribution

Riot affected children receiving educational support.

