

Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF)



Learning Exchange-cum-Workshop, June 4-5, 2009, Bhubaneswar, Orissa

Concept Note

Back ground

To scale up the DRR initiatives by community across India, there is a need of organizing learning exchanges, dialogue workshops and interaction with local government and partners. To prove that community is the key players in DRR and their initiatives needs to be recognized and scale up nationally endorse by state and national government authorities. To provide this platform there is a need to shift the existing policy at government level.

These learning exchanges will play big role in scaling up activities by various women's groups, strengthen their DRR initiatives, develop trainers on DRR, improve the relation with local government, proper utilization of government schemes and programmes such as NREGA, JNNURM, PMGSY, NRHM, SSA etc.

Exchange cum dialogue workshop

To share the initiatives by community in DRR an exchange visit cum dialogue workshop will be organized in Orissa from June 4th to 5th 2009. Around 30 grassroots women leaders will attend this programme. The participants will comprise from multi-hazard zone such as Earthquake, Tsunami, Drought, Flood, Cyclone etc. They will visit villages in Orissa on 1st day to learn the DRR practices by communities in floods and cyclone.

Grassroots Network

This event will provide an opportunity for grassroots people to voice their concerns and achievements in DRR. Sharing various disaster risk reduction initiatives by women's groups from different states and regions will be a rich full learning for participants. Involving new groups and states in grassroots network will build the confidence and strengthening existing network, scale up further to streamline the activities and form a national network of grassroots women. This will enhance and share DRR practice at national and international level.

Knowledge Sharing

Resilience baseline

Basically the knowledge sharing of this exchange would be, results of resilience baseline, structure and management of CDRF fund, role of community in monitoring and managing the fund, community proposal and selection of DRR initiatives, implementation, long term and short term actions to reduce the risk in disasters.

Role of women's groups in implementing and managing pilots

The women's groups will invite proposals from various communities on DRR initiatives in their villages. Based on the vulnerability and action based proposals, a committee will be formed to

execute, monitor and evaluate the programme. The selection for DRR pilots will be fully handled by committee lead by community with help from implementing partner.

Advocacy strategies to take community proposals further with district authorities

The community proposals should be a tool for women's groups to have dialogue with local govt, prioritize their action, utilize the local resources, etc. To build and strengthen the relationship with local authorities, community groups will try to leverage local existing govt plans and schemes. To sensitize the local authorities on the role of community in DRR, CDRF is a right opportunity for community. Organizing local level dialogue workshops, implementing govt schemes and programmes will help community to play a key role in DRR. The poverty reduction initiatives will lead in reducing vulnerabilities thus by creating a safe community with better preparedness and action.

Formalising role of community/ women's groups in preparedness

Existence of disaster task forces and preparedness plan by grassroots community is not yet recognized by local authorities. This is due to negligence from govt authorities, lack of knowledge about community skills and capacities and lack of proper regulation of involvement of community in DRR initiatives. In recent floods and cyclones community led disaster task forces have played a key role in many states. These task forces and preparedness plans should be formally recongnised, scale up and utilized.

As rain season is fast approaching this year the task forces and women's groups have to take initiatives in reducing the impact of flooding and cyclone. This will get good results if only local govt thinks as a priority to recognize and formalize these groups as champions of DRR.

Outcomes

This exchange would see the role of facilitators and community groups are clearly defined. Facilitating organizations will understand clearly on their role in implementing the pilots, how to help community groups in DRR, building capacity, helping community in dialogue with local authority, formation of CDRF committee etc. Their main role would be:

- Moving community groups beyond baseline survey to DRR priorities for action
- Role of women's groups in preparedness and CDRF planning and pilots
- Facilitate community groups to network & learn from challenges and success
- Identify issues for dialogue with districts

Grassroots women leaders will gain a voice early on in the CDRF project that they are central to the success of the project and not beneficiaries. They have a key role in planning & implementing pilots & in leading the local network to advocate with the government for recognition of their resilience work through SHGs on credit, livelihoods, contingency funds, disaster task forces etc

- Confidence to look at development programmes through a DRR lens.
- Evaluate preparedness efforts in their communities to reduce impact of disasters
- Highlight resilience initiatives & link to resources in mainstream programmes