

Recognition for Community Maps in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

“We are facing difficulty in locating the low lying areas and resources within the other villages but it is easy for us to locate all these in CBDRR program villages because of wall paintings .”

*Mr.Harinath,
Mandal Revenue Officer on his visit to a CBDRR village*



Community Maps: An Important DRR Component



Community Maps allow for improved communication about risks and what is threatened. They are visual presentations and help in better understanding of the risks and vulnerabilities. They are most useful for potential responders to decide on mitigating measures to prevent or reduce loss of life, injury and environmental consequences before a disaster occurs. Community Maps find purpose in all phases of disaster management: **Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Operations, Relief, Recovery and Lessons learned.**

“With the support of this map even any outsider can easily understand the village vulnerabilities, hazards & recourses”

When, Additional Joint Collector Mr.B. Nageswara Rao & Mandal Revenue Officer Mrs.P.Padmavathi visited Barripeta Village in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh on 27th Nov 2013 to supervise the evacuation process for Cyclone ‘Leher’, they could not help but praise the Community Map put up as a wall painting under the Indian Red Cross Society CBDRR programme.

Preparing Communities to recognize and react to geographical vulnerabilities

Community Maps: Building Community Capacities



All community maps are prepared by the community members themselves right from the basic designing and painting it on the wall. With information from members of the community and relying on precedence from past disasters, clear indication is given about low lying and vulnerable areas, evacuation routes and vulnerable population that are prone to the calamity.

“We would appreciate it if the Indian Red Cross can assist us in duplicating this concept in other villages”

Mrs. Naga
Lakshammamma,
Deputy Thasildhar

In West Godavari district during the government led evacuations for cyclone ‘Helen’ on 21st November 2013 in Vemuladevi East Village, Mr.Nagarjuna Sagar, Zilla Parishad CEO called upon the District Field Officer at midnight to congratulate her on the relevance of these community maps. He made it a point to mention that the Map really helped them in easily locating the low lying areas for quick evacuations.

Testing Community Maps

During the evacuations for the cyclone Leher & Helen, in November 2013, the NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) teams operated under the guidance of the IRCS CBDRR & District Disaster Response Team members. The Community Contingency Plans and the Community Maps became the main source for evacuation process.

