

— on the ROAD TO SENDAI

Visions and voices for a new global disaster framework

UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

OUR
FRONTLINE SUCCESSES
FROM HFA 1!



PARTNERS



TITLE OF SUCCESS STORY: Cyclone shelters provide safety to millions

Agencies names, address and focal contact person:

Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Odisha State Branch

"There are 30-40 community members who manage each cyclone shelter. The emphasis is on providing clean and hygienic accommodation to the bereaved communities till they go back to their homes after the disaster." Kashinath, Cyclone shelter committee member, Gokhurkuda, Odisha



THE PROBLEM: *(Please specify the geographical location, issues and background to the project)*

Year after year the state of Odisha faces heavy rains, cyclones and floods. Odisha has a 480 km long coastline stretching over 6 districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsingpur, Puri and Ganjam. On an average every 5 years, a major cyclone and almost every year several cyclones of minor intensity strike the coast accompanied by high speed winds, tidal waves and floods. The communities, especially the ones that stay near the coast need to be evacuated routinely to dry safe ground. The Government uses schools and other government buildings to house the evacuated populace, but they are often lacking in the basic facilities required to sustain even for a few days. There is no provision for clean safe drinking water or toilets and often become a haven for contagious diseases.

There was a strong need for dedicated cyclone shelters that would have all the support facilities for emergencies and disasters.



THE ACTIVITIES

Out of the total of 75 shelters, 59 were constructed and completed in the year 2009 by the Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with the Government of Germany, KFW(German Development Bank) and the German Red Cross under the Orissa disaster Mitigation programme (ODMP I&II). The 23 shelters built under ODMP I find a mention in the World Disaster Report 2001 released in Geneva, for having been able to save more than 40,000 lives during the super cyclone of 1999 alone. The Indian Red Cross Society continues to support the multi-purpose cyclone shelters built under ODMP I & II, even after construction. Post programme support is still being provided by IRCS in order to train communities for preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activity during inter-disaster periods.

THE OUTCOMES

Red Cross volunteers assisted in evacuation of more than 2,00,000 people during Cyclone Phailin in October 2013, out of whom 1, 14, 400 affected people were housed in these shelters. The Indian Red Cross Society has constituted shelter management committees that regularly look after maintenance of these 75 shelters. Each committee has been provided with search and rescue equipment. In the cyclone shelters which were constructed in ODMP II, there are separate living areas for men and women and separate toilets as well. All cyclone shelters have rain water harvesting system installed which ensures supply of water to the people in the shelters. A hand pump is provided in each cyclone shelter to lift water from collection tank to the second floor. The shelters provided a substitute for the lost roofs to the affected people till they were completely rehabilitated.

WAY FORWARD

This great resilience building exercise has been lauded by the Government, civic authorities and the end beneficiary communities. There is a need to build many more such shelters along the vulnerable coastline and train communities in management aspects.



Indian Red Cross Society



German Red Cross

Cruz Roja Española



Spanish Red Cross

Croix-Rouge Espagnole

الجمعية الأحمر للصليب

Please submit your success story in word format along with images separately attached to vijayalakshmi@saferworld.in.
The subject line should mention: Road to Sendai-Success Story-Organisation Name