AIDMI IN 2020

Annual Report 2020–2021

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

January 2022

Experience Learning Series 79

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Contents

1. Introduction

The year 2020 has been a land mark year for All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI). Ongoing activities have ended, slowed down, transformed, and branched out in the middle of the pandemic, overall economic slowdown, shrinking civil society resources.

By March 20, 2020 AIDMI decided to turn from outreach and advocacy activities to responding to local needs that were articulated by civil society, beyond known Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and humanitarian actors. Most local demands for AIDMI were not backed with needed resources. Some were. And this gap of resource was a challenge. But AIDMI also found that a lot can be done without or with very limited resources.

AIDMI found that the COVID 19 pandemic and its associated economic crisis, compounded by latent conflict and changing climate have set back valuable social progress achieved by local communities, organisations, and institutions. AIDMI also found that the efforts to reduce risk has suffered the worst setback in decades after over 20 years of progress. Recovery from risk and building resilience have once again become urgent goals.

Trust, peace, and social relations related to risk reduction and shared resilience became even more central throughout 2020.

The IEC products at crucial locations of the schools have led to positive behaviour change, Uma Sikshan Tirth, Ahmedabad.

2. AIDMI's Action and Prime Minister's 10-Point Agenda for DRR

The PM's 10 points were declared at Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016 Delhi. They address both, the National Disaster Management Plan of India as well as global Sendai framework.

2.1. All development sectors must imbibe the principles of disaster risk management

In promoting resilience in education, AIDMI collaborated with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Department of Education, Government of Gujarat to develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) guidelines on COVID-19 safe school re-opening. Under this initiative, 23 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) products and materials were developed for improving awareness at the school level to controlling the spread of COVID-19. The SOPs were tested during 10 field testing exercises which were joined by over 75 schools in Ahmedabad. Over 300 students, parents and teachers were consulted prior to the design of the products on safe school re-opening needs. Furthermore, a 'Good Practices Document on Health and Hygiene in Schools during CoVID-19' was also produced under the ambit of this project.

Mapping Awareness on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Survey in Ahmedabad, July 2020.

AIDMI also produced a Scoping Study India Agriculture Report for Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA). This scoping study had aspects of DRR embedded in it.

Under the project, 'Virtual Cadre Training Programme for the officials from seven departments on Disaster Risk Management, Government of Kerala, AIDMI partnered with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) to provide capacity development support for seven departments of Kerala Government. These departments included Groundwater, Civil Supplies, Education, Fisheries, Tourism, Panchayat, and LSG Planning. An extensive training needs assessment (TNA) was conducted with these seven departments to design a tailor made training programme suited to the needs of each of the department. These training needs were then incorporated into seven training modules for each of the departments. Based on the training modules, seven online training programmes were held which covered over 105 participants from the aforementioned seven departments of Government of Kerala.

The threat of ambient air pollution has emerged to be a great risk to human health and welfare. Every year, during Diwali we are reminded of this threat when see the spectacle of a thick smog engulfing the National Capital Region (NCR). However, it is just not Delhi, India's cities are consistently poor performers when it comes to clean air. However, air pollution despite being so detrimental to human mortality and morbidity is still not considered to be a public health emergency. Many city governments (Municipal Corporations) have now started working on Clean Air Programmes at the city level. AIDMI recognized the threat of air pollution and designed the clean air campaign for three cities of Gujarat.

Pushing the envelope of critical thinking on climate and disaster risk, AIDMI furthered the dialogue on 'Climate Uncertainty'. Through a collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), AIDMI contributed to a chapter on 'Bridging Gaps in understanding of climate change and uncertainty'.

Embedding risk reduction and resilience at the local level, AIDMI also proposed Handicap International to build a strong Road Safety for All programme in Tamil Nadu.

In a multi-hazard prone country like India, many communities face the wrath of disasters and emergencies. Many agencies and organizations provide humanitarian assistance to such disaster affected communities. However, there is a need to evaluate and engage with such agencies to ensure that there is accountability to the affected populations (AAP) who are receiving the humanitarian assistance. To promote AAP for disaster affected communities, AIDMI participated in multi sector, multi country series of consultation workshops to exchange lessons learned from floods, focusing on the particular challenges in evaluation faced by response agencies and civil society.

2.2. Risk coverage must include all, starting from poor households to SMEs to multi-national corporations to national states.

In pursuing the imperative of risk reduction and sustainable development, AIDMI strived to encompass all sectors and communities in its efforts. AIDMI responded to the enhanced need of children for safe and secure learning facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic by designing and implementing 'Safe School Re-opening SOPs' in Ahmedabad's schools in partnership with UNICEF and Department of Education, Government of Gujarat.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded, its impacts have become increasingly clear on the women's welfare. The differentiated vulnerability of men and women to the pandemic spring from the restriction to women's mobility due to the pandemic and lockdowns. The pandemic has also increased the work burden on women because they have they have to look after children full time

Scoping study report agriculture in India.

(as schools are closed) and also take care of sick family members. Moreover, mental health problems and exposure to gender-based violence also spiked during the lockdown. AIDMI worked with IFPRI on different aspects of women participation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

Sustainability is no longer an aspirational outcome. In a rapidly changing climate, sustainability has become critical to the success of businesses and governments. Even livelihoods need to be designed around the idea of sustainability to reduce their impacts on the environment and increase the value to all stakeholders involved in the process. AIDMI worked with GBF to evolve sustainable ways of cotton farming.

Discussions on promoting Universal Basic Income (UBI) were also initiated by AIDMI to help vulnerable people cope with the stress of COVID-19 lockdowns and economic slowdown.

Between June 2020 to March 2021, AIDMI captured the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, lockdown and unlock phases on more than 250 urban and rural women households of Ahmedabad. This study covered urban vendors, small and informal businesses and agriculture labourers and small landholders.

AIDMI also led policy advocacy initiatives for meaningful DRR initiatives. AIDMI proposed the compilation of a national level DRR-PwD report to NIDM India. Similarly, AIDMI also participated in the founding meeting of UP State Platform for DRR.

2.3. Women's leadership and greater involvement should be central to disaster risk management.

Effective DRR is based on meaningful engagement of local groups and communities. AIDMI furthered the understanding on the cascading impact of disasters in the marginal environments of Kutch, Sundarbans, and coastal metro city in India which have demanded better understanding of uncertainties and cascading disasters-Amphan and Nisarg for example-so as to find ways to develop transformative resilience. AIDMI worked with over 22 senior and junior researchers from India, Japan, England, and Bangladesh to understand the emerging concept of cascading disasters.

Additionally, AIDMI reached out to over 2100 women cotton farmers involvement for DRR through its sustainable cotton farming initiative.

AIDMI worked on the interface of agriculture, informality and loss and damage by trying to understand the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on small and informal businesses. An effective way of capturing women's leadership in resilience building is to highlight their stories of overcoming adversity. AIDMI did this by capturing the Case Studies on a number of extraordinary women in an impact study of COVID-19 lockdown. AIDMI also provided technical assistance in capturing the lessons and disseminating them in the documentation of efforts for social and economic development in Ladakh – Long term recovery from Flood. AIDMI also pushed the envelope of knowledge management on women's leadership in DRR by publishing a paper on the interplay of 'women, work and disasters' and another on 'Role of Women in Disaster Management in India'.

The first batch of training on weaving is in progress at Ladakh Resource Center.

2.4. Invest in risk mapping globally to improve global understanding of Nature and disaster risks.

AIDMI has always promoted mapping resilience of underlying social and economic systems. On those lines, AIDMI carried out an Institutional Assessment of Disaster Risk Management Institutions in India with ADPC and investment programme were developed for India AIDMI also conducted a review of literature and drafted an introductory chapter for a study report on the impacts of climate change on children for Save the Children.

Last year, AIDMI also furthered the deliberation on aspects like global understanding of risk by drafting and publishing Southasiadisasters.net issue on Global Impact of COVID-19. On similar lines, AIDMI Co-organized a webinar with Research Network on Disaster, Environment and Society (ReNDES) on mapping risks and exploring the political economy of the lockdown in India. AIDMI also participated in Views from the Frontline - Pre action planning workshops, survey, and consultation.

2.5. Leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of disaster risk management efforts.
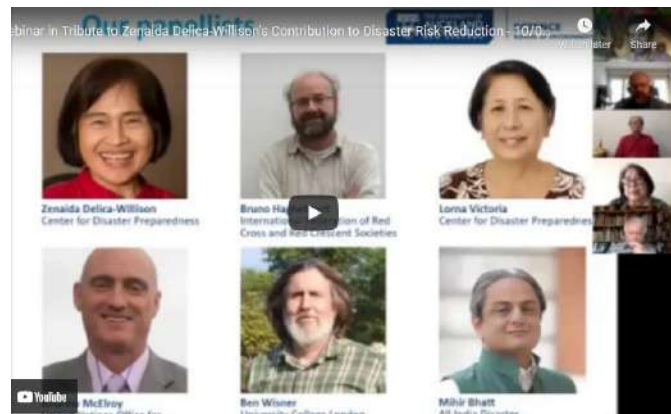
AIDMI took a leap in leveraging technology in during the pandemic to collect data remotely using mobile based app (Survey CTO). This technology helped AIDMI to reach out to with stakeholders at bottom - data collection. In capacity development too, AIDMI leveraged technology and innovated to overcome the challenges of physical mobility during the pandemic. AIDMI organized virtual training sessions for virtual cadre officers of 7 departments of Kerala government on the CISCO platform.

AIDMI also co-organized a webinar on Cities and Resilience: Risks and Opportunities' with INHAF that brought together views from professionals across different fields through digital technology (Zoom) to share their prescriptions on the opportunities for better city planning during and post the pandemic. Another technology driven initiative taken up by AIDMI was Scoping the Demand for Lithium-ion Batteries (LIB) In India - Research Study for Electricity Usage Trend and Hidden Needs in Indian Rural Sector. Under this, 20 FGDs and 45 KIIs were conducted, covering 266 individuals (111 males and 155 females) from India's four states and a UT.

Webinar in Tribute to Zenaida Delica-Willison's Contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction, June 10, 2020.

AIDMI proposed a series of consultations on topics such as COVID-19 and urban risk and National Education Policy and DRR.

2.6. Develop a network of universities to work on disaster-related issues.

AIDMI has always pursued collaborations with reputed universities and academic institutions to promote latest knowledge and research on DRR. Last year, AIDMI prepared 'A National Brief' on COVID-19 with Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform and the University of Sussex was

prepared with inputs from key universities, UN agencies, civil society organisation, and local authorities. It is being translated in Hindi and Gujarati due to growing local demand. AIDMI also drafted and published a paper on "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia" for the Oxford Encyclopedia of Natural Hazard Governance.

AIDMI partnered with University of Sussex and other academic institutions on the TAPESTRY (Transformation as Praxis: Exploring Socially Just and Transdisciplinary Pathways to Sustainability in Marginal Environments) Project. AIDMI also worked as a local partner with University of Birmingham on the theme of tackling the challenges of Air Pollution in Indian cities.

2.7. Utilise the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies for disaster risk reduction.

Last year, AIDMI tried to leverage the power of social media and other web based tools to reach out to more stakeholders AIDMI documented acceptable practices of SATARK and TNSMART initiatives, two effective Early Warning System application so that they can be shared with other states in India and countries in Asia. Similarly, AIDMI also used of digital survey tools like Google Form and Survey CTO for collecting data from field and departmental officials with partners such as UNICEF, KSDMA and IFPRI.

AIDMI implemented 'Phone Survey' to study the economic impact of COVID-19 Lockdown in rural Gujarat with IFPRI. The phone survey went on for five rounds (with more than 500 households) across 10 districts of Gujarat. Updating training materials. Conducted training for master trainer on DRR and CCA.

2.8. Build on local capacity and initiative to enhance disaster risk reduction.

Capacity development has always been a cornerstone of AIDMI's strategy to promote resilience of vulnerable communities and groups. Last year, AIDMI supported more than 75 urban schools of Ahmedabad for safety measures in schools with school communities. AIDMI also provided capacity building inputs – to various reputed stakeholders- IFPRI, GBF, UNICEF, KSDMA. AIDMI also drafted report on Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) Survey on WASH and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) with ADRA, CARITAS and Christian Aid (Assam and Bihar).

A concerted programme on Capacity Building of over 105 Virtual Cadre officers from seven departments of Government of Kerala (GoK) on Disaster Management was also undertaken by AIDMI. AIDMI also took on 'Project on Capacity Development of School Institutions in Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic in Ahmedabad' with UNICEF to enhance the capacity of local schools to respond to the challenges of safe re-opening.

2.9. Make use of every opportunity to learn from disasters and, to achieve that, there must be studies on the lessons after every disaster.

Imbibing key learnings from different emergencies and disasters has always been a key strategy of AIDMI. Last year, AIDMI renewed its commitment to this strategy by drafting lessons from above projects - linked with lessons from responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2018 Kerala Floods Lessons Learnt and Knowledge for the Global South Report was prepared by AIDMI with UNOSSC, Bangkok. The report was used in UNDP's regional report to national governments to set priorities for the pandemic action. Dissemination of findings of Kerala flood ascertainment study.

Project analysis and identification of critical lessons: Rapid humanitarian assistance to the excluded flood-affected communities in Assam and Bihar report was developed by AIDMI for use in repeated floods in Bihar. The report informed the flood response plan of Government of Bihar and civil society.

Similarly, webinars on the contributions of stalwarts from the field of DRR like Zenaida Delica-Willison and Dr. Ian Davis were captured in the form of webinars and Southasiadisasters.net issues. Lessons on 'Accountability during the Pandemic' and 'COVID-19 and New Humanitarian Agenda' were also captured through concerted *Southasiadisasters.net* issues.

2.10. Bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters?

International collaboration on research, implementation and knowledge management in the field of DRR was strived for by AIDMI. South Asia Disaster Report (SADR) 2019: Disasters Induced by Natural Hazards and Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in South Asia with DN and others.

To reflect this greater cohesion, AIDMI researched, compiled and published *Southasiadisasters.net* issues on 'COVID-19 Impact in India'; 'Perspectives on the Pandemic: COVID-19 in South Asia'; 'The Impact of COVID-19 in Asia Pacific'; 'The Pandemic and Reopening Schools'. Similarly, AIDMI also published an Experience Learning Series on Urban Resilience in South Asia. All these publications brought together noted international and national experts and practitioners on DRR together and promoted greater cohesion.

AAP study specifically focuses on the 2017-18 flood response in Assam and Kerala and 2019 response of cyclone Fani in Odisha.

3. Way Ahead

AIDMI aims to reduce risk and achieve shared resilience by taking swift, transformative and sustained actions. In doing so, AIDMI will seek to respond to the demand for local level action by a variety of stakeholders (Govt, Non-Government, Private Sector, Academic, etc.). Support and partnerships are welcome to address the themes of latent conflict, changing climate, negative economic growth, and the pandemic on local risk reduction and shared resilience building and the transformative prospects for recovery in India.

AIDMI has survived the year 2020 with patience among its team members, support from its board members, and the faith of some of its existing partners.

AIDMI aims to be far more responsive to the demands of those who reach out to AIDMI for making India and the world around India safer. AIDMI will respond with support in shaping and informing the policy and practice of building resilience, developing capacity and reducing underlying risk to all those stakeholders who reach out to AIDMI. AIDMI aim to achieve these outcomes through innovative pilot projects, strategic partnerships and co-creating knowledge for use in 2021.

The 23 IEC products are in displayed in 10 schools of Ahmedabad city. 142 educators from more than 75 schools joined the field-testing process and demanded IEC products

4. Annexes

4.1 Key Highlights for AIDMI in 2020

Key Partners
- ALNAP Network
- Asian Farmers Association (AFA)
- Caritas India
- Education Department, Government of Gujarat
- Global Bright Futures (GBF), UK
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Groupe URD
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex
- International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA)
- New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO)
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Key Accomp[1]lishments
- Successfully completed online trainings for over 100 virtual cadre members from seven departments of Government of Kerala (on Cisco Webex Platform).
- Researched and drafted paper for ALNAP Network for 'Lessons for Adapting Humanitarian Action to the Challenges of Climate Change'
- AIDMI reached out to over 2100 women cotton farmers involvement for DRR through its sustainable cotton farming initiative in collaboration with GBF, UK.
- Promoted women's leadership in DRR by capturing case studies on women overcoming adversity after the COVID-19 lockdown in rural Gujarat in collaboration with IFPRI.
- Phone survey on impact and recovery of COVID-19 with 500 women farmers across ten districts of Gujarat in collaboration with IFPRI. The impact and recovery aspects has been measures at different timeline for five times between June 2020 to August 2021.
- Pushed the boundaries of knowledge and research on women's leadership in DRR by drafting and publishing papers on 'Role of Women in India in Disaster Management' and 'Interplay of Women, Disaster and Work'.
- Promoted new thinking on climate and disaster risk by University of Sussex and other academic institutions on the TAPESTRY (Transformation as Praxis: Exploring Socially Just and Transdisciplinary Pathways to Sustainability in Marginal Environments) Project.
- Addressed the risk of air pollution by collaborating with the University of Birmingham.
- Drafted the 2018 Kerala Floods Lessons Learnt and Knowledge for the Global South Report with UNOSSC, Bangkok.
- Commemorated the life and work of stalwarts from the field of DRR like Dr. Ian Davis and Zenaida Delica-Willison by organizing special webinars and publishing *Southasiadisasters.net* issues.

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4.2 Knowledge and Information Products of AIDMI

1. *Southasiadisasters.net*

Sr.No.	Issue No.	Main Topic	Month and Year
1.	185	The Contribution of Zenaida Delica-Willison to Disaster Risk Reduction	April 2020
2.	186	COVID-19 and the New Humanitarian Agenda	July 2020
3.	187	Perspectives on the Pandemic: COVID-19 in South Asia	August 2020
4.	188	The Impact of COVID-19 in Asia Pacific	September 2020
5.	189	The Contribution of Dr. Ian Davis to Disaster Risk and Recovery Management 1972-2020	October 2020
6.	190	COVID-19 Impact in India	November 2020
7.	191	The Global Impact of COVID-19	January 2021
8.	192	Accountability to Affected Populations in Times of the Pandemic	February 2021

2. *Experience Learning Series*

Sr.No.	No.	Main Topic	Year	Partner
1	76	The Contribution of Zenaida Delica-Willison to Disaster Risk Reduction	April 2020	AIDMI
2	77	Urban Resilience in South Asia	March 2021	AIDMI

3. *Advocacy Brochures*

Sr.No.	Main Topic	Year	Partner
1.	Engagement of Smallholder towards Sustainable Development: Scoping Study Report Agriculture in India	March 2020	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
2.	Response to COVID-19 Pandemic	May 2020	AIDMI
3.	Advisory for Senior Citizen during COVID-19 *(in English, Assamese, Gujarati, Malayalam, Odia, and Tamil languages)*	April 2020	AIDMI
4.	How to use Mask *(in Gujarati language)*	February 2020	AIDMI
5.	Scoping The Demand For Lithium-Ion Batteries In India - Electricity Usage Trend And Hidden Needs In Indian Rural Sector Project	March 2021	AIDMI, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)

4. *Reference Materials*

Sr.No.	Main Topic	Year	Partner
1.	Training Module for Women Cotton Farmers on Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change And Sustainable Cotton	March 2020	SEWA, White Stuff, Global Bright Futures (GBF)

2.	COVID-19 Phone Survey Questioner (in Gujarati)	May 2020	IFPRI
3.	Mapping Awareness on COVID-19 Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) Survey in Ahmedabad	July 2020	AIDMI
4.	An Assessment of Disaster Risk Management Institutions	September 2020	ADPC, World Bank
5.	COVID-19 and School Reopening: IEC Materials (in English and Gujarati languages)	November 2020	AIDMI, UNICEF
6.	Project Brief on Building Capacities of School Institutions for COVID-19 Risk Reduction and Response in Urban Ahmedabad	November 2020	AIDMI, UNICEF
7.	COVID-19 SOP Guideline for Re-opening Schools (in English and Gujarati languages)	December 2020	AIDMI, UNICEF
8.	Virtual Cadre Training Programme for the officials from seven departments on DRR, Government of Kerala - Training Needs Assessment Report	December 2020	AIDMI, UNICEF, KSDMA
9.	In-Focus: COVID-19, Uncertainty, Vulnerability and Recovery in India (in English, Hindi, and Gujarati languages)	December 2020	SSHAP
10.	COVID-19: Impacts of the Pandemic on Vulnerable Communities in India (in English, Hindi, and Gujarati languages)	December 2020	SSHAP
11.	Building Capacities of School Institutions for COVID-19 Risk Reduction and Response in Urban Ahmedabad: Project Final Report	January 2021	AIDMI, UNICEF
12.	Impact of COVID-19 on Self-Employed Women's Businesses	March 2021	SEWA
13.	Women Farmers Case Studies - Impact of COVID19 and Lockdown on Women Farmers (Study Report)	March 2021	IFPRI, SEWA

5. Videos

Sr.No.	Main Topic
1.	Accountability to Affected Population
2.	Insurance for Women Informal Workers
3.	Kerala 2018 Flood Recovery
4.	Rapid Assessment of Flood Affected Population
5.	DRM Institutions in South Asia
6.	Deaths Due to Disaster are Avoidable

4.4 Board of Trustees

SOURCE OF STRENGTH

International Organisations:

UN Organisations:

Universities & Research Centres:

Universities & Research Centres:

Non-governmental Organisations:

Government Organisations:

Private Sectors:

Networks: