

and Gujarati due to growing local demand. AIDMI 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 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

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 used digital survey tools like Google Form and Survey CTO for collecting data from field and departmental officials with partners such as UNICEF, KSDMA, ASDMA, NIDM, and IFPRI.

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. AIDMI supported more than 75 urban schools of Ahmedabad for safety measures in schools with school communities. AIDMI provided capacity building inputs – to various reputed stakeholders- IFPRI, GBF, UNICEF, NDMA, ASDMA, KSDMA (105 Virtual Cadre officers from seven departments of Government of Kerala). AIDMI 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).

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

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. 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 was successful.

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 Assam and civil society.

Similarly, 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 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 was produced with Duryog Nivaran 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 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.



Towards a more Disaster Resilient India

Annual Report Executive Summary 2020–2021



ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE

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.



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2. AIDMI'S ACTIVITIES AND PRIME MINISTER'S 10 POINT AGENDA ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

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

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 for controlling the spread of COVID-19. Overall, 75 schools were covered in this initiative.

AIDMI also produced a Scoping Study for 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.

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.

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



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), and over 20 universities and institutions, 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.

To promote Accountability to Affected Populations (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.

AIDMI worked with IFPRI to research on different aspects of women's participation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Women have suffered a disproportionate burden of the adverse impacts of COVID-19 pandemic including reduction in income, limited physical mobility, more housework, lesser nutrition, physical and mental abuse.

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



AIDMI evolved sustainable ways of cotton farming for women cotton farmers in Gujarat. This initiative focused on building the capacity of women cotton farmers through training and input support to increase their incomes and make them resilient against all kinds of disaster and climate risks.

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.

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

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'.

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

Last year, 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 furthered the deliberation on aspects like global understanding of risk by



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

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 during the pandemic to collect data remotely using mobile based app (Survey CTO). 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 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 Research Study for Electricity Usage Trend and Hidden Needs in Indian Rural Sector.

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

AIDMI prepared 'A National Brief' on COVID-19 with Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform and the University of Sussex with inputs from key universities, UN agencies, civil society organisation, and local authorities. It is being translated in Hindi