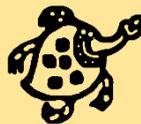


# ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE (AIDMI)

*Annual Report 2023–2024*



*"India is poised to leap into a humanitarian system that builds on the strengths of affected and vulnerable citizens."*



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

April 2024

*Experience Learning Series 83*

Title: Annual Report 2023–2024

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# ALL INDIA DISASTER MITIGATION INSTITUTE (AIDMI)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2023-24, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) and its associates made significant strides in its mission to build resilience against disaster and climate risks for vulnerable communities in India and beyond. This pursuit of resilience is based on an intersectional approach to social justice, equity, and accountability, focusing on at-risk populations such as women and children, minorities, casual and migrant laborers, and tribal citizens. In the last year, AIDMI has also strengthened the convergence among humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation with notable success. Its scope of activities has been broad, addressing priorities and creating impact at regional, national, and sub-national levels. Most importantly, AIDMI has piloted and promoted a novel data-based approach to address various disaster and climate risks.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

In 2023-24, AIDMI continued to develop and influence policies that were closely aligned with the actual conditions and needs of local communities. Plan pilots for the most vulnerable in these communities, help local authorities and CSOs, learn through review and evaluation, and continue to consolidate and capture local knowledge through the co-creation of publications. AIDMI's various activities are described in detail below.

### A. Policy Support

In 2023-24, AIDMI actively shaped the policy discourse around climate and disaster risks and their integration. As a signatory organisation of the **COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace**, AIDMI's work was shaped by global and local concerns around risk reduction, climate change and humanitarian action. "Furthermore, AIDMI also implemented the policy mandates of global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction on the ground."

*AIDMI is one of the Signatory Organization at COP28 UAE, December 2023.*





*Informal  
businesswomen face  
heatwave challenges,  
Delhi, June 2023.*

**“Need a cool  
box to keep my  
vegetables safe  
from heat.”**

AIDMI shaped the policy and praxis of data governance within NGOs by releasing a policy memo titled, ‘**Best Practices in Data Governance for NGOs**’. This policy memo investigated data sovereignty and interoperability issues at NGOs and how they can leverage collaborative data ecosystems to prioritise governance and security.

Similarly, AIDMI addressed the policy of data generation and usage in disasters. In this policy support activity, AIDMI interviewed 70 individuals from India and other South Asian countries to address the demand of data and data repositories across thematic areas of Humanitarian Action, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation.

Moreover, AIDMI advocated for greater access to **risk insurance (Afat Vimo) for poor family farmers and agriculture workers** in the face of increasing climate change uncertainties. Such risk insurance (Afat Vimo) schemes can provide a safety net against the loss and damage caused by disaster and climate risks.

AIDMI has continuously been involved in shaping and guiding the policy ecosystem around **heatwave risk mitigation in India**. In 2023-24, AIDMI produced a policy brief titled, ‘**Policy perspectives on heatwave action in India**’. This policy brief comprehensively analyses heatwave patterns in the Indian region, documenting an increase in their frequency and intensity due to climate change.

The findings of this policy brief highlight the enhanced threat caused by extreme heat to public health in India, as evident by the 2,200 excess deaths in the 2015 heatwave. This enhanced threat has necessitated comprehensive and targeted policy action aimed at heatwave management.

Recommendations in this policy brief include developing advanced heatwave forecasts and early warning systems to proactively alert and protect populations. It advocates for creating and implementing localised Heat Action Plans to prepare vulnerable communities for heatwave impacts. This involves public education on heat stress prevention, ensuring access to cooling shelters, and enhancing healthcare responses to heat-related illnesses

In addition, the following table highlights how AIDMI worked to achieve the various sustainable development goals (SDGs) in 2023-24.

<b>Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)</b>	<b>AIDMI Activities</b>
SDG 5: Gender Equality	AIDMI worked closely with women smallholder and micro farmers in states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Ladakh to enhance their agency and access to resilient livelihoods.
SDG 7: Decent Work and Economic Growth	AIDMI helped informal business women in Gujarat to adopt disaster and climate resilient strategies in their operations for optimising economic growth.
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	AIDMI worked with at-risk urban populations in Gujarat to assess their vulnerability to the risk of extreme heat and provide them with sustainable coping mechanisms.
SDG 13: Climate Action	AIDMI assisted small-scale women cotton farmers in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh in adopting climate-resilient and disaster-resistant agricultural techniques, thereby enhancing their livelihood resilience.
SDG 17: Partnerships for Goals	AIDMI partnered with several organisations and entities, such as the World Food Program (WFP), Deakin University, ALNAP, ELHRA, and Sphere India, to achieve disaster and climate resilience outcomes in India, South Asia and Central Asia.

## **B. Capacity Development**

Capacity Development was an integral part of AIDMI’s activities in 2023-24. AIDMI’s capacity development inputs provide both – risk reduction demonstrations and education through training, internships, practical demonstrations, and participatory exercises. In 2023-24, AIDMI organised a series of Climate Change Workshops and Trainings for small-scale women cotton farmers from the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. In

total, 197 women leaders were trained in these capacity development programmes to reach out to over two lakh farmers.

These workshops called '**Women Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change**' tried to address all aspects related to climate change, disasters and resilience building on agriculture value chains. The first step towards solving a problem is to correctly understand it and assess the extent of its impacts. These workshops were an attempt by AIDMI to understand how the preparedness and response capacities of small and marginal women cotton farmers can be improved against the various impending climate and disaster risks. Demand from farmers of Odisha, Assam, and Himachal Pradesh has come up. In 2023-24, AIDMI carried out a **review of its local capacity building cycles**. They have positively impacted disaster management in India in the last 23 years, training over 23,219 affected people from 14 states and union territories. With 635 sessions conducted and partnerships like that with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), AIDMI has drastically strengthened the capacity of communities to mitigate and respond to disasters by emphasising practical skills in local contexts. These programmes have resulted in faster and more effective disaster responses, thereby fostering greater resilience.

*A family farmer with the vermibed installed in her farm in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh.*





**“When we meet we find solutions to many more challenges of family in extreme heat and floods.”**

*The participants engaged in a group exercise to co-create farm resilience knowledge at the local level, Nanded District, Maharashtra, October 2023.*

The focused application of AIDMI’s trainings can potentially decrease human and economic losses when disasters strike, demonstrating substantial and far-reaching benefits for India. AIDMI’s training portfolio includes over 30 training modules and 4 Training of Trainers toolkits, addressing disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian action issues. Demand for these training modules have come from 6 states.

### **C. Pilot and Demonstration**

In 2023-24, AIDMI implemented two pilot projects in response to the floods in Punjab and Gujarat. Based on the on-ground situation, it was decided to focus on socially and economically vulnerable women affected by the floods. Local Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) were involved in the effective response. In Punjab, the CBO provided 2,600 safety kits, 35 cattle feeders, and 246 ration kits to disaster-affected populations as an initial response and made plans for future resilient crop initiatives.

In 2023-24, AIDMI started a pilot project titled, ‘**Assessing the Demand Side of Heatwave Mitigation and Management in Affected Populations of India**’. This pilot project aims to analyse the impact of heatwave risk on informal workers and businesses in several urban and rural locations across India. This project was initiated in response to requests from workers across six states. , and is also an exercise in assessing the demand for appropriate mitigation actions (physical, financial, and structural) against the risk of heatwaves. Thus far, the project has underscored the need for targeted measures for adaptation, stressing the need for durable infrastructure, reliable heatwave forecasting, and comprehensive

educational programmes. These needs are even more pronounced in resource-scarce regions where widespread deprivation and informality intersect with the risk of extreme heat to lead to increased vulnerability for a large number of people.

In response, the project proposes adopting workforce adaptation policies that guarantee sufficient hydration, access to cooling, and flexible work timings to avert heat-related health issues. It also underscores the importance of fortifying social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations robustly during heatwave conditions more thought is needed here. The project also delineates the need for innovation in several key areas: developing crops that can withstand harsh heat, devising economical cooling options, and creating inherently climate-resilient housing. Furthermore, it encourages in-depth investigation into heatwaves' long-term health and economic repercussions. Several cities have contacted AIDMI for guidance and project planning from the South India.

**“Yes, we know what we want for protection from extreme heat: more income, more savings, and insurance (Afat Vimo).”**

*Farmer members of Patan district, Gujarat, responding during a group discussion.*

#### **D. Evaluation and Reflection**

In 2023-24, designing and implementing evaluations of climate change, disaster risk, and sustainable development projects, policies and programmes formed a key pillar of AIDMI's work. For instance, AIDMI was invited to join a team of experts to conduct the evaluation of the **climate and environment charter for humanitarian organisations**. The charter is open for signature by all humanitarian organisations. This charter intends to galvanise and steer collective action in response to the dramatic impacts of



the climate and environment crisis, for those who will feel their impacts the most. As a result several UN agencies have contacted AIDMI to help draw guidance from such evaluations.

Similarly in 2023-24, AIDMI led its evaluation efforts through the '**Appreciative Inquiry and Co-Creating Learning**' programme. This multi-year evaluation programme is conducted with Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to evaluate sustainability in agriculture, climate adaptation and resilience of farm-based livelihoods for small and marginal women cotton farmers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The evaluation made use of a blended technique of qualitative and quantitative methods using participatory tools that collect, analyse, discuss, and document the progress made by the farmers and farmers in the lead positions with SEWA as well as team members at the district and state levels.

Moreover, the evaluation is conducted every quarter to allow for a flexible and thematic focus. In 2023-24, AIDMI conducted four detailed evaluations in the aforementioned geographies with different thematic focuses, such as livelihood diversification, regenerative agriculture, resilience to climate and disaster risks and access to agriculture extension services. The findings of this unique evaluation have contributed significantly to improving the efficiency of small-scale cotton farming among the women farmers of the aforesaid regions directly, and of the sector indirectly.

Similarly, AIDMI's '**Data and Data Repositories**' evaluation has shed light on an often-overlooked aspect of disaster management: the actual demand for data by those who need it the most. The study, which was carried out through detailed interviews with professionals across various sectors in India, reveals a skew toward data supply without adequately addressing the critical question of how this data is utilised. Amidst reflections on the response to recent crises like the Joshimath landslides and the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become evident that operational data is not just a resource but a lifeline for policy-making and effective crisis intervention. AIDMI is invited by authorities to offer alternative view on data and its use.

Looking to the future, AIDMI will champion greater collaborative efforts that foster the integration and utility of data across different platforms and stakeholders. Addressing the shortfall in demand-driven data analytics will augment AIDMI's capacity for informed decision-making, bolstering immediate disaster response and long-term resilience strategies.

## E. Co-creating Knowledge

AIDMI has always been at the forefront of conducting research and knowledge dissemination in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate action with and for the affected population in the centre. In 2023-24, AIDMI partnered with the ELHRA and Deakin University, Australia, to conduct the **Global Prioritisation Exercise (GPE)** to arrive at substantive Research and Innovation (R&I) priorities for the larger humanitarian sector.

The GPE was a flagship research and knowledge management endeavour which hinged on AIDMI's expertise to work on diverse themes in humanitarian action across multiple regions and geographies. AIDMI conducted the GPE in Central Asia and South Asia region and also in India. Consequently, it came up with two reports, i.e. one for the Central Asia and South Asia region and another one country report for India. Demand for similar reports have come from other countries, UN agencies and international organisations in the areas of gender, employment, agriculture, and small business.

For this seminal research project, AIDMI leveraged the NVIVO software to rigorously analyse and report the qualitative data captured through online consultations with leading humanitarian experts in India, South Asia and Central Asia. The GPE for humanitarian research and innovation, examined perspectives of regional actors engaged within the humanitarian R&I space. It also helped to further the understanding of how the humanitarian R&I ecosystems in India, Central Asia & South Asia function, how decisions are made, who has a seat at the priority-setting table, and R&I topics and priority topics requiring attention in the region. AIDMI plans to make a Road map with suitable partner.

In 2023-24, AIDMI partnered with one of the most reputable Indian humanitarian agencies to design the Disaster Response and Disaster Risk Reduction strategy. This is a stronger organisational plan that links disaster response to recovery and long-term

**“South Asia has so much to offer in terms of pilots, innovations, and new opportunities.”**

*Roundtable at the World Conference on Humanitarian Studies in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on November 5, 2023.*



recovery and stronger local implementation of the NDMP (National Disaster Management Plan). As a result, the agency has revised its vision with more focus on poor victims in Nine states.

In the previous year, AIDMI also led knowledge co-creation by partnering with global think tank on environment to conduct a scoping study on the need for financial instruments by the small and marginal farmers in Gujarat and Maharashtra. The findings of this scoping study were also shared with the stakeholders to validate and to shape possible future actions. One of the principal recommendations of this study was to improve the access of farmers to agriculture insurance so as to help them deal with climate change uncertainties as well as with other cascading hazards that so after are co-located. The findings are well received at national level by authorities who are drafting a policy for this effect.

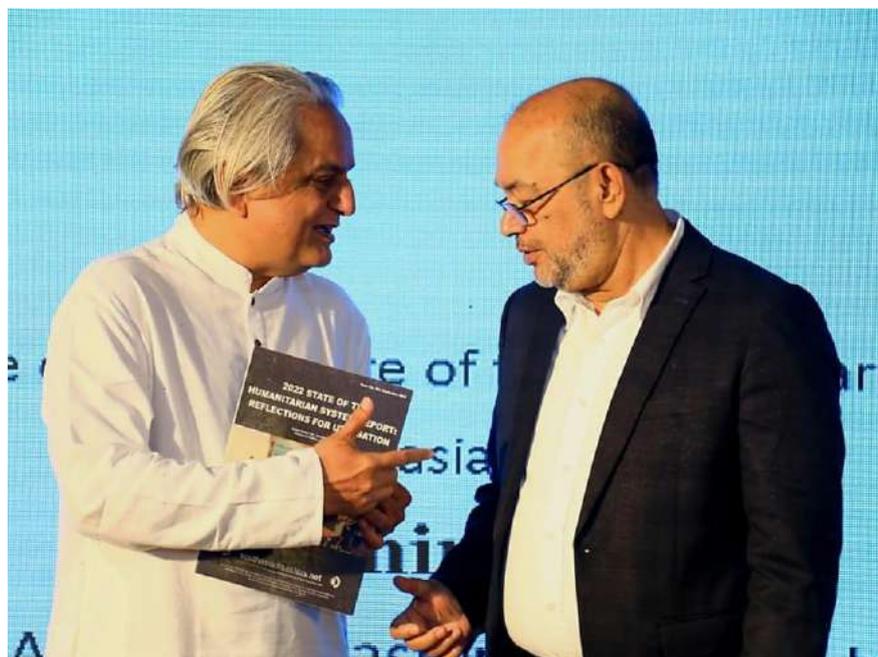
In 2023, AIDMI together with a global network launched the **State of Humanitarian System (SOHS)** Report in Delhi and Dhaka and later in Odisha. In the launches at Delhi and Odisha, a national and sub-national perspective was captured to promote its contextualisation with a higher focus on three themes - locally-led adaptation, COVID-19, and accountability and dignity of crisis-affected populations. Demand has come to conduct similar reports again at national and subnational levels.

AIDMI's long-standing disaster risk reduction (DRR) and sustainable development publication called '*Southasiadisasters.net*' was robustly published in 2023-24. As AIDMI's flagship publication. Southasiadisasters.net started in May 2005, and ever since then, it has created and maintained its position as a reputed publication boasting of contributions from some of the most respected academics, practitioners and organisations operating in the field of disaster risk reduction. This publication has pushed the envelope of knowledge and research in the field of DRR, climate action and sustainable development. Demand has come for more publications in a year on more themes such as loss and damage, climate finance, and major global humanitarian crises.

**In 2023-24, five issues of this Southasiadisasters.net were published on Building Back Greener: Environmental Accountability in the Post-Pandemic Context; Local Recovery and Preparedness for the Pandemic; 2022 State of the Humanitarian System Report: Reflection for Utilisation; Strengthening the Humanitarian System: From India to South Asia; and Urgency of Heatwave Risk Management.**

**“Each community in South Asia may consent system wide systematic reviews.”**

*AIDMI shares the 2022 SOHS utilisation report with the Bangladesh Minister for Disaster Mitigation.*



AIDMI leveraged its knowledge management and research expertise to investigate the impact of climate extremes such as heatwaves on the livelihoods of micro and informal businesses owned by women in the state of Gujarat. This seminal research endeavour resulted in the report titled **‘Women, Heatwaves and Informality’**.

In 2023-24, AIDMI participated in over 33 online and offline conferences, roundtables, webinars, workshops and other events to promote research, knowledge exchange and discourse on several themes on disaster risk reduction, climate action and sustainable development with a focus on policy performance, new and adequate financing for local action, a better data supported decisions, and anticipatory action focused living.

For instance, AIDMI, together with the university, CSR Steel corporation, organised the international conference on climate change, Disaster Resilience and Human Wellbeing at Berhampur, Odisha. The conference shortlisted over 40 young researchers to present their papers at the conference. The conference discussions strongly emphasised climate change and its actions. A wide range of themes was covered that resulted in a book - ‘Climate Change, Disaster Resilience and Human Wellbeing’.

Similarly, AIDMI participated and organised a panel on **‘Heatwave Preparedness- Policy Demand from Family and Home Businesses’ at the Global Conference in Dhaka**. At the conference, experts addressed the escalating threat of heatwaves in South Asia, punctuating the urgency induced by climate change. At this conference, the experts deliberated on the necessity for gender-inclusive policies and the fusion of technological

advancement with community resilience efforts against heat extremes.

Through 2023-24, AIDMI has also been working on a data-driven situational awareness context report of Cyclone Michaung. This report which is set to be published shortly, was created using publicly available data from Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority. This analysis will cover aspects such as population exposure, vulnerability, mobility patterns, mortality rates, and infrastructure damage.

### **3. TEAM**

AIDMI's team members and partners are the agents through which AIDMI realises its mission of localised risk reduction for the poor. In the previous year, AIDMI's various team members contributed in different capacities to complete its organisational projects and programmes. Moreover, over ten young interns joined AIDMI and brought on a new energy and perspective to the organisation's activities and vision.

AIDMI has continued to be a part of the 'Exchange for Change' work programme that links motivated university students and fresh graduates with social impact organisations. As we're moving into a new year, AIDMI is seeking to expand its team by accepting applications from a data scientist and disaster risk reduction graduates to work across various organisational projects that promote integration of disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, and humanitarian action.

### **4. IMPACT**

In 2023-24, AIDMI's efforts have had far-reaching impacts on disaster risk reduction, climate action, humanitarianism and sustainable development outcomes. This impact could be measured in how organisations and planners have been empowered and DRR has been integrated into development planning or how affected populations have been extended with targeted and contextualised disaster relief.

More tellingly, AIDMI has always been guided to work according to the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and India's National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The following table highlights the impact of AIDMI's activities against the various priorities of SFDRR in 2023-24.

**“Each action must impact policy and each policy must impact action within the system.”**

<b>SFDRR Priority of Action</b>	<b>AIDMI Activities and Impact</b>
PoA 1: Understanding Disaster Risk	<p>AIDMI conducted extensive local research through consultations, fieldwork, and workshops to understand the extent of local disaster risks such as heatwaves on businesses, agriculture, education and health.</p> <p>AIDMI collaborated with research and academic institutions to investigate global research and innovation priorities in humanitarian action across Central Asia and South Asia regions.</p>
PoA 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	<p>AIDMI collaborated with government agencies such as the National Institutes to develop and implement national and local DRR strategies.</p> <p>Through workshops, AIDMI facilitated local farmers, small businesses, and other stakeholder engagement to ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making in DRR at all levels of the humanitarian system.</p>
PoA 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience	<p>AIDMI supported livelihood diversification and climate-smart agriculture initiatives to reduce communities' economic vulnerability to disasters in urban and rural areas.</p>
PoA 4: Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and Build Back Better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction	<p>AIDMI is a signatory organisation of COP 28 UAE Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace to further the agenda of better preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction.</p> <p>AIDMI is also promoting CHS new standards, climate and environment charter, and Sphere performance Standards.</p>
Cross-Cutting Theme: a) Focus on Underlying Risk Factors	<p>All of AIDMI's work factored in social, economic, and environmental factors that contribute to disaster risk with focus on women, children, migrants, casual labour, small</p>

SFDRR Priority of Action	AIDMI Activities and Impact
	businesses, family farmers, and all minorities.
Cross-Cutting Theme: b) Gender equality and empowerment of women	All AIDMI projects addressed the specific needs of women and girls are addressed in DRR efforts with focus on women, their leadership, and the intersectionality.
Cross-Cutting Theme: c) Use of technology and innovation	AIDMI explored and integrated innovative tools in its resilience-building projects, such as Kobo Toolbox, NVIVO, Webex, Zoom, Google Forms, SPSS, AI, etc. to develop database for decisions.

## 5. WAY AHEAD

As we move into a new year, AIDMI will continue its work of building a resilient and sustainable future for some of the most at-risk and marginalised communities in India and beyond. AIDMI's rich experience and expertise in risk reduction across various geographies and themes will be leveraged to uncover newer risks and devise appropriate local strategies to address them.

As the impacts of disruptive technologies (generative A.I.) and climate change unfold, the landscape of development and humanitarian action is bound to change. In this changing landscape, AIDMI will also review and re-define its vision, mission and strategy and reconcile them to these new realities.

AIDMI will leverage its experience to advocate for stronger disaster risk reduction and climate change policies at the national and regional levels with a focus on local actors and their organisations. This will include collaborating with government agencies, participating in policy forums, and engaging with other NGOs and stakeholders who directly impact the affected population.

In the coming year, AIDMI will develop partnerships with individuals and organisations for heatwave risk preparedness, reaching out to affected populations through loss and damage pilots, and anticipatory actions for vulnerable populations. Plans are ready for support. Similarly, there will be a renewed focus on landslide risk management.

AIDMI plans to assemble a diverse team across the disciplines of data science, technology, and climate research, along with

inaugurating and developing a Disaster Data Hub for enhancing research in disaster and climate science.

Most importantly, AIDMI will co-create solutions collaboratively and imaginatively with a host of stakeholders but mainly with the affected population to pursue the imperative of inclusive, equitable and sustainable risk reduction for all.

**“I shade my  
work place.  
Can we shade  
our cities? with  
trees?”**

*AIDMI has a study to look at the ground-level impacts of heat waves on the people especially the working poor in the informal sector of the Gujarat economy both in rural and urban areas.*



## **Promoting Knowledge on Risk and Resilience: AIDMI's Knowledge Products and Resources Published in 2023-24**

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has consistently demonstrated its commitment to advancing knowledge and understanding in the fields of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian action. In the year 2023-24, AIDMI continued this tradition by producing a diverse array of knowledge products and resources, each designed to address critical issues and promote Informed decision-making in these vital areas.

At the forefront of AIDMI's knowledge dissemination efforts is its flagship publication, *Southasiadisasters.net*. This monthly periodical serves as a platform for exploring pressing themes related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian action. In the 2023-24 period, AIDMI published five issues of *Southasiadisasters.net*, each focusing on a distinct and timely topic. The May 2023 issue explored the concept of "Building Back Greener," examining environmental accountability in the post-pandemic context. This was followed by a June 2023 issue that addressed local recovery and preparedness for the pandemic, highlighting the importance of community-level resilience.

In September 2023, *Southasiadisasters.net* provided a critical reflection on the 2022 State of the Humanitarian System Report, offering valuable insights for its utilisation. The January 2024 issue took a broader perspective, exploring ways to strengthen the humanitarian system from India to South Asia. The final issue of the fiscal year, published in March 2024, underscored the urgency of heatwave risk management, a topic of increasing relevance in the face of climate change.

Complementing the regular issues of *Southasiadisasters.net*, AIDMI also published its annual Experience Learning Series. The 82nd edition of this series, released in April 2023, focused on "Working with Affected Communities: Raising Resilience and Reducing Risks." This publication served as AIDMI's annual report for 2022-2023, providing a comprehensive overview of the institute's activities and achievements in working directly with communities to enhance their resilience and reduce disaster risks.

AIDMI's commitment to influencing policy and practice was evident in its series of Policy Notes. Throughout the year, the institute published eleven such notes, covering a wide range of topics. These included summaries of AIDMI's annual report, advisories on heatwave protection, analyses of the humanitarian system, and explorations of localisation efforts. The Policy Notes also addressed women's leadership in disaster risk reduction, impact monitoring and evaluation, and specific initiatives such as

SEWA's work in Ladakh. These concise yet informative documents serve as valuable resources for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in the field.

Recognising the need for practical, action-oriented resources, AIDMI also produced a series of Reference Materials. These included booklets on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in both Gujarati and Hindi languages, ensuring wider accessibility. Specialised materials were developed for cotton farmers and their children, demonstrating AIDMI's commitment to addressing sector-specific risks. The institute also published case studies and reports on topics such as internal finance mobilisation in forest and farm producer organisations, the impact of heatwaves on women in rural and urban Gujarat, and insights from policy dialogues on heatwave preparedness.

A significant portion of AIDMI's knowledge dissemination efforts in 2023-24 took the form of Virtual Policy Roundtables. The institute organised and reported on fourteen such events throughout the year, covering a diverse range of topics. These roundtables addressed issues such as heatwaves in South Asia, the Sudanese conflict and refugee crisis, cultural heritage protection during conflicts and disasters, and postcolonial futures for disaster risk reduction. The discussions also explored international experiences in planning for extreme heat, lessons on adaptation from South Asia, and strategies for strengthening the humanitarian system. These roundtables served as important platforms for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and formulating policy recommendations.

In addition to these broader policy discussions, AIDMI also conducted focused Virtual Training sessions. Two such sessions were held in early 2024, both centered on "Women-led Disaster Preparedness." These training events targeting participants from Kashmir, underscores AIDMI's commitment to empowering women as key agents in disaster preparedness and response.

AIDMI's engagement with on-the-ground realities was further exemplified through its Action Planning initiatives. Throughout the year, the institute organised twelve such events across various locations in India, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, and New Delhi. These action planning sessions covered a wide range of topics, from COVID-19 pandemic research to women's resilience building in the face of climate change. The institute also participated in international conferences and dialogues, including events in Dhaka that focused on addressing humanitarian needs in South Asia and policy options for dealing with heatwaves in the region.

A notable aspect of AIDMI's knowledge products in 2023-24 was their linguistic diversity. Several materials, including booklets and

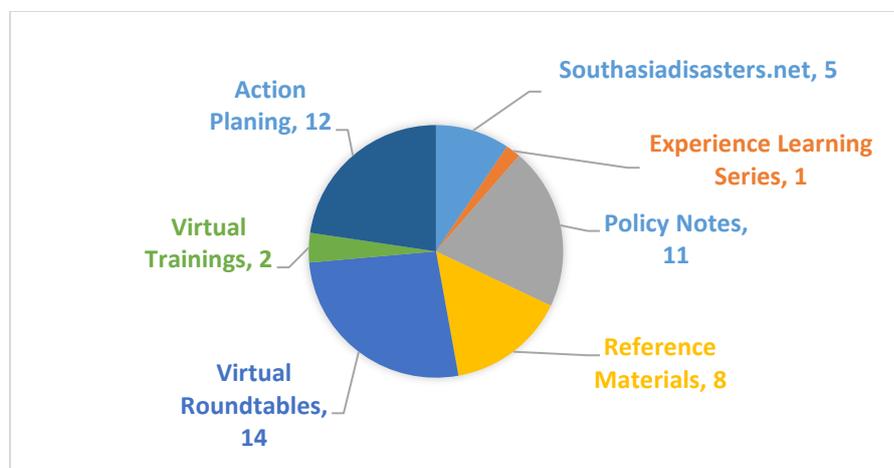
display materials on disaster risk reduction, were produced in Gujarati and Hindi, in addition to English. This multilingual approach reflects AIDMI's commitment to reaching diverse audiences and ensuring that critical information is accessible to local communities.

The institute's focus on emerging issues is evident in its repeated engagement with topics such as heatwave preparedness and management. This reflects AIDMI's responsiveness to evolving challenges in the realm of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Similarly, the emphasis on women's leadership and participation in disaster preparedness and climate resilience building demonstrates AIDMI's commitment to gender-inclusive approaches in these fields.

AIDMI's knowledge products and resources published in 2023-24 showcase the institute's holistic approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian action. By producing a mix of regular publications, policy briefs, practical guides, and event reports, AIDMI caters to a wide range of stakeholders, from policymakers and practitioners to local communities and international organisations.

In conclusion, the knowledge products and resources published by AIDMI in 2023-24 represent a significant contribution to the fields of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian action. Through its diverse range of publications and events, AIDMI has not only disseminated valuable information and insights but also fostered dialogue, promoted best practices, and advocated for evidence-based policies. As the challenges posed by disasters and climate change continue to evolve, AIDMI's commitment to producing relevant, accessible, and impactful knowledge resources remains crucial in building resilience and reducing risks across South Asia and beyond.

#### **In Numbers - Knowledge and Information Products of AIDMI in 2023-24**



## **AIDMI's Collaborative Network: A Diverse Ecosystem of Partners**

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has fostered partnerships with a wide array of organisations, reflecting its comprehensive approach to disaster mitigation and sustainable development. This diverse network of collaborators have been instrumental in AIDMI's efforts to create a lasting impact across India.

At the forefront of AIDMI's partnerships are international development agencies and multilateral organisations. These global entities bring vast resources, expertise, and a global perspective to AIDMI's work, enabling the implementation of large-scale projects and the sharing of best practices from around the world.

Governmental bodies, both at the national and state levels, form another crucial category of AIDMI's partners. These partnerships facilitate policy-level interventions, ensure alignment with national disaster management strategies, and provide official support for AIDMI's initiatives.

Academic and research institutions feature prominently in AIDMI's collaborative network. These partnerships foster knowledge creation, evidence-based interventions, and the development of innovative approaches to disaster mitigation. They range from renowned universities to specialised research centres focused on climate change, disaster management, and sustainable development.

AIDMI has also cultivated strong ties with international non-governmental organisations (INGOs). These global NGOs bring their extensive experience in humanitarian aid and development work, complementing AIDMI's local knowledge and reach.

The institute's commitment to grassroots action is evident in its partnerships with local and national NGOs. These organisations provide invaluable on-ground support, community connections, and contextual understanding that are crucial for the success of AIDMI's initiatives.

AIDMI has also engaged with private sector entities, including corporations and foundations. These partnerships likely involve corporate social responsibility initiatives, funding support, and the application of business acumen to development challenges.

Professional associations and networks in fields related to disaster management and sustainable development are also part of AIDMI's collaborative ecosystem. These partnerships facilitate knowledge exchange, professional development, and the establishment of industry standards.

More notably, AIDMI has partnerships with UN agencies, underscoring its alignment with global development goals and its recognition as a credible partner in addressing complex humanitarian challenges.

AIDMI's partners – spanning governmental, non-governmental, academic, private sector, and international organisations – reflect its diverse and holistic approach to disaster mitigation. This multi-stakeholder collaboration enables AIDMI to leverage a wide range of resources, expertise, and perspectives in its mission to build resilient communities across India.

By fostering such a comprehensive network, AIDMI demonstrates its commitment to inclusive, collaborative, and innovative approaches to disaster mitigation and sustainable development. This diverse partnership model not only enhances the effectiveness and reach of AIDMI's work but also positions it as a key player in the broader ecosystem of organisations working towards a more resilient and sustainable future for India.

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Simpi Kirti

Shaikh Yakub

Trivedi Khayal

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*"I try to put in over 30% of my savings, when made, into making my family's life safe and protected."*



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