

20 YEARS OF LOCAL LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION IN ASIA: CASE OF SOUTHASIADISASTERS.NET

Celebrating 225 Issues of Southasiadisasters.net

The collage displays 15 covers of the journal Southasiadisasters.net, arranged in a grid. Each cover includes a title, a main image, and the journal's logo. The covers are as follows:

- Issue No. 100, March 2014:** "School-based Disaster Risk Reduction: Lessons for South Asia" featuring a young boy sitting on the ground.
- Issue No. 101, April 2014:** "Understanding Climate Change in South Asia" featuring a landscape with wind turbines.
- Issue No. 102, May 2014:** "Why southasiadisasters.net?" featuring a woman in a red sari.
- Issue No. 103, June 2014:** "Community Risk Transfer Through Microinsurance: An Opportunity for South Asia?" featuring a damaged building.
- Issue No. 104, July 2014:** "Enriching Climate Change Education in Asia: An Effort to Make Schools Safer" featuring a child pointing at a screen.
- Issue No. 105, August 2014:** "Reducing Risks through Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction" featuring a boat on water.
- Issue No. 106, March 2014:** "Adaptation to Climate Change: Linking DRR with Microinsurance" featuring a group of people.
- Issue No. 107, April 2014:** "Local Level Planning to Cope with Heat Waves in India" featuring a person on a bicycle.
- Issue No. 108, May 2014:** "Building Adaptation and Resilience to Heat Waves" featuring a person in a white shirt.
- Issue No. 109, June 2014:** "Heatwave Deaths Are Avoidable" featuring a man under an umbrella.
- Issue No. 110, July 2014:** "Key Action Areas for Addressing Extreme Heat in the Asia-Pacific: Lessons from Regional Platforms" featuring a person in a boat.
- Issue No. 111, August 2014:** "Heat as Humanitarian Crisis: What Local Organisations Are Doing" featuring a person at a table.



southasiadisasters.net

Promoting Disaster Risk and Climate Resilience Awareness Across South Asia Since 2005.



INTRODUCTION

Why Southasiadisasters.net Matters

By Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, India

When governments in the Global North made early investments in reducing disaster risks, many nations of the Global South lacked the same resources. In these contexts, civil society organisations stepped forward to raise awareness and take action. The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), founded in Ahmedabad during the droughts of the late 1980s, is one such organisation. Alongside pioneers in Peru and the Philippines, AIDMI has worked tirelessly to strengthen disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and climate resilience with affected communities at the centre.

To support this mission, AIDMI launched *Southasiadisasters.net* in 2005. Now in its 225th issue, it has grown into one of the longest-running, practitioner-driven platforms in South Asia, being read by up to 30,000 readers and written by over 2000 practitioners, researchers, academics,

"For twenty years, Southasiadisasters.net has carried the voices of resilience – of women, children, workers, and communities – from the ground to global platforms. It reminds us that local knowledge for disaster risk reduction must not only be written, but also lived, shared, and acted upon."

policy-makers, and most importantly, affected communities. It has consistently provided space for grassroots voices, field experiences, and practical lessons to be documented, shared, and translated into policy action. Unlike academic publication, *Southasiadisasters.net* is concise, action-oriented, and inclusive, bringing together practitioners, policy-makers, researchers, and community leaders from more than 60 countries so far.

Why *Southasiadisasters.net* is Important

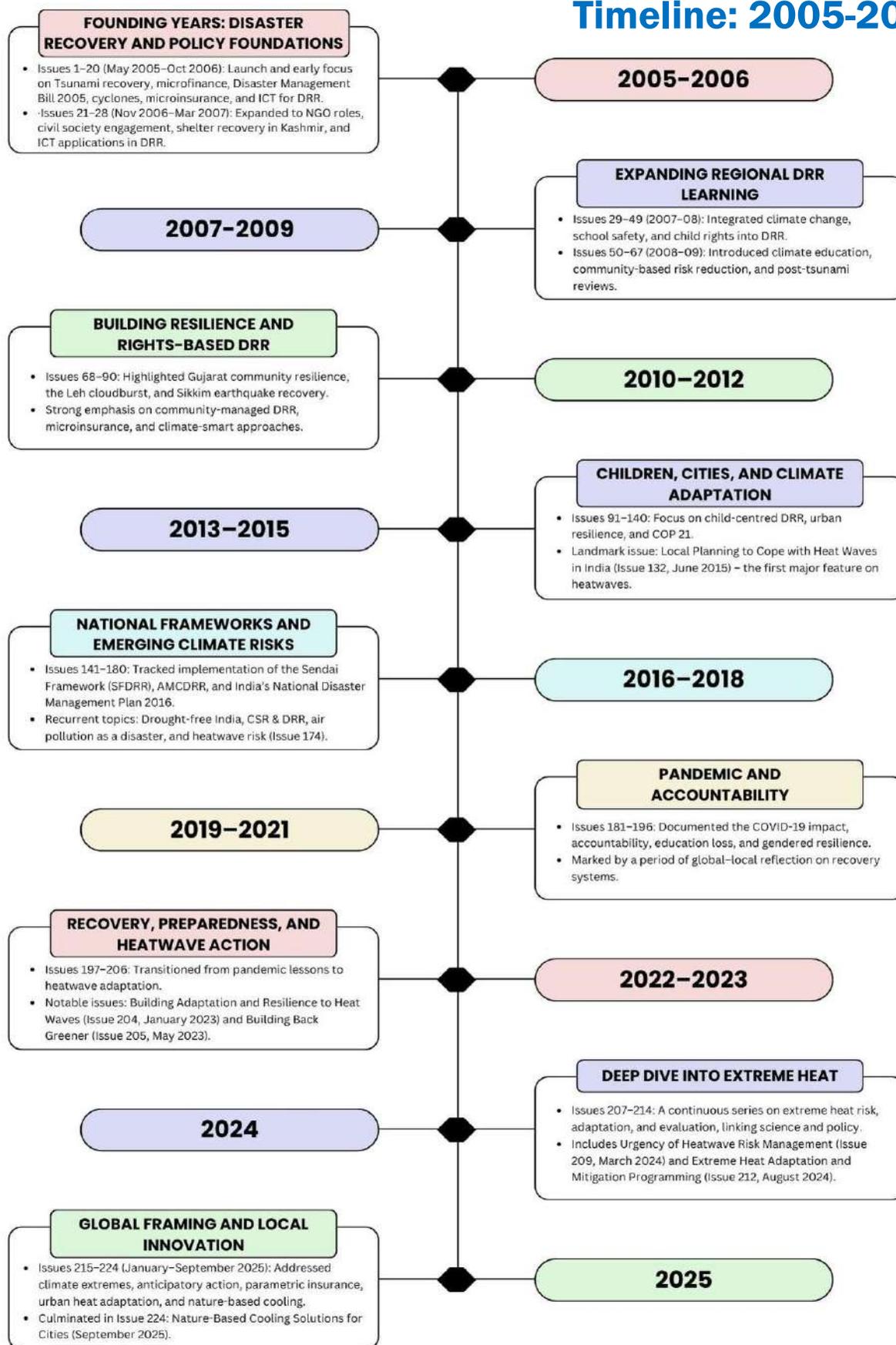
- It captures ground realities by amplifying affected community voices often excluded from mainstream research.
- It bridges practice and policy, aligning grassroots knowledge with frameworks like the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and SDGs simultaneously.
- It democratizes knowledge with over 2,400 articles that combine practitioner insights, academic research, and policy guidance.
- It sustains continuity, publishing 225 issues in 20 years, making it one of the largest Global South knowledge archives and longest-standing ongoing streams of insights, observations, analysis, provocations, and solutions.
- It builds solidarity, advancing South-South cooperation and regional learning across Asia and beyond. ■

Southasiadisasters.net: दो दशकों की प्रमुख उपलब्धियाँ

पिछले दो दशकों में *Southasiadisasters.net* दक्षिण एशिया में आपदा प्रबंधन और जलवायु अनुकूलन के क्षेत्र में ज्ञान-विनिमय का एक प्रमुख मंच बनकर उभरा है। इस विशेष 225वें अंक के साथ, इस प्रकाशन ने कुल 225 अंक प्रकाशित किए हैं, जिनमें सैकड़ों शोध-आधारित और अनुभव-साझा करने वाले लेख शामिल हैं। अब तक भारत सहित 67 देशों के लगभग 1,900 लेखकों ने अपने अनुभव, विचार और अनुसंधान इस मंच पर साझा किए हैं, जिसने इसके विषय-वस्तु को अत्यंत विविध, समृद्ध और संदर्भित बनाया है। इन अंकों में आपदा पुनर्प्राप्ति, जलवायु अनुकूलन, शहरी जोखिम प्रबंधन, सामुदायिक लचीलापन और अत्यधिक गर्मी जैसे उभरते खतरों पर विशेष ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है।

Southasiadisasters.net ने स्थानीय समुदायों के साथ मिलकर ज्ञान के सह-निर्माण को बढ़ावा दिया है, जिससे स्थानीय अनुभवों और आवाजों को वैश्विक मंच पर स्थान मिला है। यह विशेषांक इन दो दशकों की उल्लेखनीय यात्रा को सम्मानित करता है, एक ऐसी यात्रा जिसने क्षेत्र को अधिक सुरक्षित, न्यायसंगत और लचीले भविष्य की दिशा में आगे बढ़ाया है। साथ ही यह भविष्य में भी इसी प्रतिबद्धता के साथ कार्य जारी रखने की प्रेरणा देता है। ■

Timeline: 2005-2025



Celebrating 225 Issues of Southasiadisasters.net: Two Decades of Voices, Vision, and Value

By AIDMI Team

For twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has connected local experiences with global frameworks, capturing the pulse of resilience across South Asia and beyond. From its first issue in 2005 to the landmark 225th issue in 2025, the publication has served as a bridge among practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and affected communities. With over 2,400 articles authored by 1,889 contributors from 67 countries, this living archive stands as a testament to the power of shared learning, solidarity, and community action.

Who Reads Southasiadisasters.net

The readership of *Southasiadisasters.net* mirrors the diversity of the resilience community itself. Practitioners make up the majority (about 55%) and bring field-level perspectives from across Asia and Africa. Researchers and academicians represent another 20%, followed by policymakers and government officials (15%), and community leaders, students, and volunteers (10%). This unique blend ensures that every issue speaks to both the doers and the decision-makers.

The Contributors Behind the Knowledge

Over two decades, *Southasiadisasters.net* has published 2,413 articles, authored by 1,889 identified contributors and 524 anonymous writers. The network spans 67 countries, led by India (1,237 authors), followed by the UK, Bangladesh, Switzerland, Sri Lanka,

Nepal, Thailand, and Pakistan. Practitioners from civil society make up the largest group (58%), complemented by academics, researchers, journalists, and policymakers. Together, they form a truly global community of practice committed to disaster and climate resilience.

Thematic Diversity Across 224 Issues

The 224 issues published before this milestone have explored a remarkable range of topics. The most frequent themes include Disaster Recovery (22 issues), Natural Hazards (19), Disaster Risk Reduction (18), COVID-19 Pandemic (16), and Climate Change and Disasters (15). Others have focused on Catastrophic Disasters, School Safety, Urban Resilience, Humanitarian Action, Governance, Microinsurance, Early Warning, and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management. Each theme reflects the evolving landscape of risks and the search for solutions.

Localisation in Action

From its inception, *Southasiadisasters.net* has been grounded in local realities. It has consistently been published in and about multiple South Asian languages, amplifying community perspectives often lost in academic or policy texts. As JC Gaillard notes, its strength lies in valuing all forms of knowledge—local, indigenous, and experiential—without forcing translation or hierarchy. This makes it one of the few genuinely

decolonised platforms in the disaster studies and practice ecosystem.

Building Resilience, Issue by Issue

Resilience has been the central thread running through every issue. Over two decades, the publication has showcased local recovery, adaptation, governance, and innovation. It has an advanced understanding of microinsurance, anticipatory action, and climate finance while emphasising community participation. The 225 issues together form one of the largest archives of resilience learning in the Global South, reflecting a sustained commitment to continuity and local leadership.

Making Extreme Heat Visible

Among the most recent and significant themes is extreme heat. Since 2022, *Southasiadisasters.net* has become a leading voice documenting this emerging humanitarian challenge. Issues on “Heat as a Humanitarian Crisis” and “Nature-Based Cooling Solutions for Cities” have highlighted the risks faced by small businesses, women workers, and informal livelihoods. AIDMI’s pioneering work with SEWA and local partners has turned this focus into a model for community-based adaptation and anticipatory action.

Centring Affected Populations

The publication has never lost sight of its purpose—to amplify the voices of those most affected. Across 2,400 articles, women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, farmers, and informal workers have

all found representation. The stories of these communities, told in their own words and contexts, have shaped a more inclusive understanding of risk and resilience.

Gender and Resilience

Gender equality has been both a theme and a principle. From special issues on “Women’s Leadership in DRR” to case studies of women-led resilience initiatives in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India, *Southasiadisasters.net* has consistently underscored the central role of women in disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and humanitarian response. Its gender lens is not symbolic—it is structural, woven into the journal’s DNA.

A Timeline of Twenty Years

The journey of *Southasiadisasters.net* is marked by key milestones:

- **2005:** Launch following the Indian Ocean Tsunami.
- **2008:** 50th Issue – a self-reflective edition on knowledge sharing.
- **2015:** Alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- **2020:** Series on the COVID-19 pandemic and community response.
- **2022–2025:** Focus on extreme heat, anticipatory finance, and community-based adaptation.
- **2025:** Celebration of the 225th issue—twenty years of uninterrupted publication.

Guiding Voices and Advisors

The *Southasiadisasters.net*’s journey has been guided by a distinguished advisory board. Current advisors include Anoja Seneviratne (Sri Lanka DMC), Denis Nkala (UNDP USA), G. Padmanabhan (UNDP India Retd.),

Dr Ian Davis (UK), Dr P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti (India), and Dr Satchit Balsari (Harvard FXB Center). Past advisors and contributors have included renowned figures such as Ben Wisner, Zenaida Delica-Willison, JC Gaillard, John Twigg, Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu, Kala Peiris De Costa, Khurshid Alam, Rita Schneider-Sliwa, O.P. Mishra, T. Nanda Kumar, and Anshuman Saikia.

Readers’ Recommendations for the Future

1. Readers have shared their aspirations for the next phase of the publication:
2. Address politically sensitive risk issues with courage and balance.
3. Adopt more interactive formats—visual stories, podcasts, and short films.
4. Engage students and young professionals as writers and editors.
5. Deepen focus on migration, green jobs, and digital risk governance.

Preserve linguistic and cultural diversity by promoting contributions in local languages.

What Practitioners Value Most

Practitioners across South Asia recognise *Southasiadisasters.net* for its practicality:

1. Actionable insights in concise formats (average 800 words).
2. Peer learning from 67 countries.
3. Bridges between fieldwork and policy dialogue.
4. Open-access archive for knowledge exchange.
5. A collaborative platform for South-South learning.

Policy Impact and Value

For policymakers, the publication serves as a field-tested source of evidence:

1. Grounded examples for DRR and climate policy formulation.
2. Regional comparisons that inform national planning.
3. Integration of Sendai, Paris, and SDG principles.
4. Accessible language and practical takeaways.
5. Documentation of scalable, locally-led policy innovations.

A Donor’s Agenda for the Future

For donors and development partners, *Southasiadisasters.net* offers clear direction:

1. Invest in community-led knowledge and documentation systems.
2. Support anticipatory and climate resilience financing.
3. Enable South-South knowledge exchange and learning platforms.
4. Fund local-language and digital accessibility initiatives.
5. Scale up pilot-to-policy learning and community innovation.

Conclusion

The 225th issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* is not merely a celebration of numbers—it is a celebration of commitment, collaboration, and continuity. It reflects AIDMI’s belief that resilience begins with knowledge and that knowledge must be shared widely, across languages, boundaries, and disciplines. As it looks toward its next hundred issues, the publication continues to stand for the principles on which it was founded: grounded learning, inclusive voices, and the collective pursuit of safer, more resilient communities across South Asia and the world. ■

Regional Importance of Southasiadisasters.net

By *Krishna S. Vatsa*, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India, India

It is a remarkable achievement to start a periodical and sustain it with dedication for more than 20 years. Southasiadisasters.net stands as a testament to this enduring commitment. Mihir R. Bhatt and the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) deserve deep appreciation for their perseverance and vision in creating and maintaining such an important platform from India for knowledge dissemination in the field of disaster management in South Asia.

Over the past quarter-century, the periodical has mirrored almost all the key developments in disaster risk reduction across South Asia. It has chronicled the evolving ideas, policies, voices, policies, opinions, pilots, and practices that have shaped the sector, serving as an

authentic record of how disaster management has matured in the region. Through its pages, one can trace the transformation of disaster management—from a relief-centric approach to a more holistic practice encompassing preparedness, mitigation, and resilience-building in India and South Asia.

Beyond documentation, Southasiadisasters.net has broadened the discipline itself. By covering a wide range of topics and showcasing diverse experiences – anthropology to analytics, aid to AI – it has demonstrated that disaster management in South Asia is not monolithic but deeply rooted in varied contexts and community practices. The periodical has given practitioners a space to share their insights and experiences without the

constraints of academic formalism, thereby enriching the field with inspiring community-based perspectives.

What makes the publication special is its simplicity and authenticity. It connects countries and, more importantly, affected communities across South Asia through shared challenges of exposure and vulnerability, sustaining a regional conversation on disaster resilience with unfailing regularity. Its journey reflects dedication, inclusivity, and purpose, qualities that must continue to guide its path so that the practice of disaster management in South Asia becomes even richer, more diverse, and more professional in reducing disaster risks in the decades ahead. ■

KNOWLEDGE MILESTONE

225 and Growing Strong

By *Sujan Mandal¹, Suchismita Roy¹, and Dr. P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti²*

The developed countries of the global North took the lead in making substantial public investments in structural and non-structural measures for reducing the risks of disasters, and in developing market mechanisms for risk transfer and insurance. In the absence of such initiatives by the national governments of the Global South, due to resource constraints and other compelling priorities, it fell upon civil societies in developing countries to mobilise support for

creating awareness about disaster risks and taking grassroots-level, community-based initiatives for disaster risk reduction.

In this regard, the three front-running civil society organisations from the global south were the *Centro de Estudios y Prevención de Desastres*" (PREDES) Peru, the Citizen's Disaster Response Center (CDRC) Philippines and the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) India. PREDES was

established in 1983 by three Peruvian individuals, with Andrew Muskrey at the helm; CDRC emerged in 1984 through the tireless efforts of Zenaida Delica-Willison; and AIDMI was founded by Mihir Bhatt, an architect and planner, in his hometown of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. While Andrew and Zenaida left the societies they founded to build their careers at the UN, Mihir has stayed with his organisation, steering it to grow as one of the most prominent

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² Professor Emeritus, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Narendrapur Campus, Kolkata, India.

civil society organisations in the region and the world.

The Organisation

Established during the Gujarat droughts of 1987-89, and registered formally in 1995 as an NGO, AIDMI has worked over the years in the intersecting areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and humanitarian action with a focus on vulnerable sections of communities, developing their capacities and implementing innovative projects for building resilience of rural and urban communities to disasters and climate change. AIDMI links local communities with national and global initiatives for risk reduction, relief and long-term recovery programmes to build resilience. As an action-oriented and learning organisation, AIDMI promotes disaster risk mitigation by supporting, capturing, processing and disseminating information, lessons and ideas on disaster risk reduction. In this endeavour, AIDMI routinely conducts stakeholder roundtables, training of trainers, reviews, evaluations, research studies, and pilot projects, with citizens at the centre.

The Publication

To support this endeavour, AIDMI launched its publication, *Southasiadisasters.net*, in June 2005, marking the tenth anniversary of its registration. The publication has completed its twenty continuous years of publication, and this issue stamps the 225th number of the publication – an incredible achievement of a civil society organisation that relies on the voluntary efforts of a group of professionals and activists dedicated to the cause of reducing risks of disaster and climate in different parts of South Asia in general and India in particular.

The *Southasiadisasters.net* is clearly a publication with a difference. It is not an academic or research publication. It is not peer-reviewed nor Scopus-indexed. Nor is it a newsletter of the organisation. It is primarily a publication of practitioners from around the world working on disaster and climate resilience in diverse sectors, including rural and urban development, science and technology, agriculture and animal husbandry, women and children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities, among others. It covers various levels, ranging from local to

national and global. Many of these practitioners are eminent scholars and researchers in their respective fields, but they write concise, relevant articles on the key lessons learnt from their research or fieldwork that can be useful for action. Hence, the articles are not pedantic in their approach but are oriented towards providing practical solutions to the problems. The average article size does not exceed 800 words, making them easy to read and comprehend for ordinary readers.

Themes

Each of the past 224 issues of *Southasiadisasters.net* is dedicated to a particular theme, with an average of 10 articles woven around the theme. Some themes have been repeated in successive issues to provide diverse perspectives, thus creating a database of 2,413 articles. A bibliometric analysis of the publication issues and articles presents a rich tapestry of knowledge of building disaster and climate resilience.

Maximum number of 22 issues were devoted to 'Disaster Recovery' after various catastrophic disasters in South and South East Asia, followed



Andrew (left), Zenaida (centre) and Mihir (right) - three pioneers of civil society engagement with disaster risk reduction.

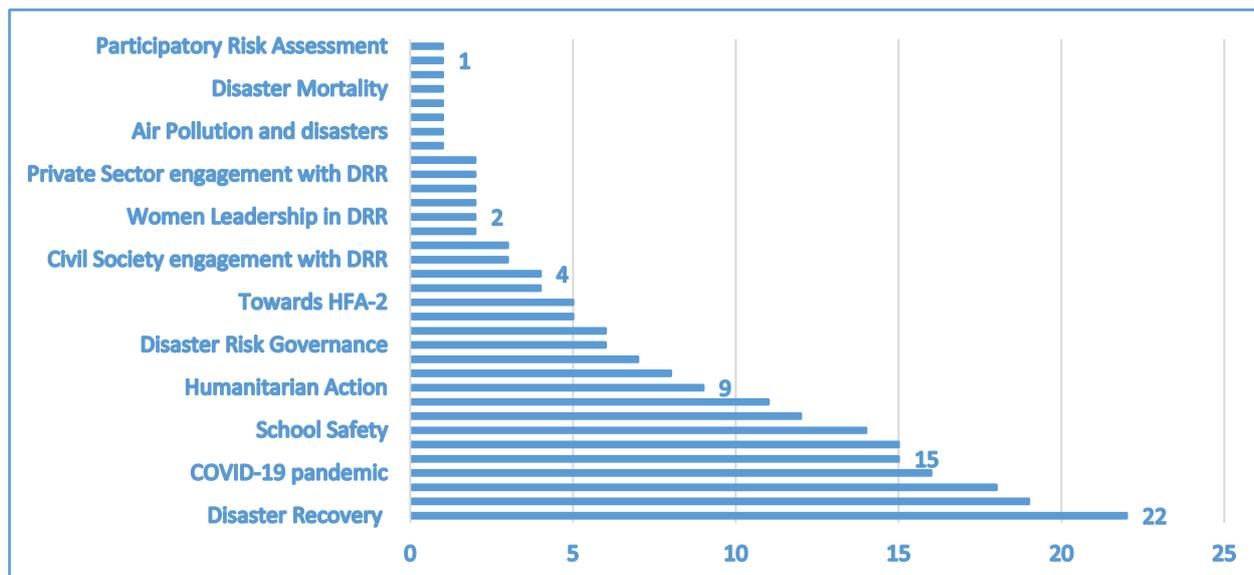


Figure 1. Themes of 224 Issues of Southasiadisasters.net.

by 'Natural Hazards' (19 issues), 'Disaster Risk Reduction' (18), 'COVID-19 Pandemic' (16), 'Climate Change and Disasters' (15), 'Catastrophic Disasters' (15), 'School Safety' (14), 'Urban Risks and Resilience' (12), 'Disaster and Climate Resilience' (11), 'Humanitarian Action' (9), 'Community Based Disaster Risk Management' (8), 'Asian Regional Platform on DRR' (7), 'Disaster Risk Governance' and 'Risk Transfer and Micro-insurance' (6 each), 'Early Warning System' and 'Towards HFA-2' (5 each), 'Disaster Risk Management Plan' and 'Disaster Response' (4 each), 'Civil Society engagement with DRR' (3), 'Capacity Building', 'Women Leadership in DRR', 'Knowledge Network', 'Disaster Preparedness', 'Private Sector engagement with DRR', 'Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation' (2 each) and 'Harnessing Science & Technology', 'Air Pollution and disaster', 'Complex Disasters', 'International Cooperation', 'Disaster Mortality', 'Global Platform on DRR', 'Heritage

Risk Management', and 'Participatory Risk Assessment' (1 each). One issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* was devoted exclusively to the contributions of Dr Ian Davis and Ms Zenaida Delica-Wilson in the fields of disaster risk reduction, while the 50th Issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* was a special issue on *Southasiadisasters.net* itself.

Writing in this special issue, Ben Wisner observed: "The 49 issues of *Southasiadisasters.net* appearing between May 2005 and July 2008 are a mirror or microcosm of progress worldwide in getting disaster risk taken seriously as a challenge to development and translating that policy consensus into concrete action at the local scale. Risk is an integral part of daily life for most people who depend directly on natural resources for their livelihoods."³ The daily risks faced by common people, created by exposure to vulnerable conditions and the hazards of nature and a changing climate, along with their struggles to live with, adapt to, and recover from disasters, have filled nearly 6,000 pages of the 224

issues of *Southasiadisasters.net* over the past two decades.

Numbers

A total of 2413 articles have been published in these issues, averaging 10.7 articles per issue and 114.9 articles per year. The number of issues published each year has varied, ranging from a maximum of 21 in 2014 to a minimum of 4 in 2023, with an average of 10.6 issues per year.

Of the total number of 2413 articles published in *Southasiadisasters.net*, 803 articles are country-specific, while nearly double the number (1610) are general and issue-based. Expectedly, the overwhelming majority of 715 country-specific articles are from South Asia, with India topping the list with 573 articles, followed by Nepal (45), Bangladesh (42), Sri Lanka (25), Pakistan (18), Afghanistan (8), Maldives (3) and Bhutan (1).

Among the country-specific articles on non-South Asian countries Myanmar tops with 10 articles,

³ Ben Wisner, 'Conclusion: Glass Half Full, Glass Half Empty', *Southasiadisasters.net*, Special Issue 25, July 2009.

followed by Indonesia (9), Japan (7), China (6), Mongolia, Philippines and Thailand (5 articles each), Cambodia (4), Canada and Vietnam (3 each), Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, European Union, Russia, Malaysia, Poland and Turkey (2 each) and Albania, Australia, Colombia, Kenya, Korea, USA, Mali, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arab, South Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Uzbekistan (1 article each).

1610 general articles largely follow the thematic pattern of the *Southasiadisasters.net* issues, as shown in Figure 1. Articles on disaster recovery tops (9.82%), followed by natural hazards (8.48%), disaster risk reduction (8.04%), Covid-19 (7.14%), climate change (6.70%), catastrophic disasters (6.70%), school safety (6.25%), urban risk and resilience (5.36%), disaster and climate resilience (4.91%), humanitarian action (4.02%),

CBDRM (3.57%), regional platform (3.13%), governance (2.68%), micro-insurance (2.68%), early warning system (2.23%), HFA-2 (2.23%), DM Plan (1.79%), disaster response (1.79%), civil society (1.34%) etc.

Authors

Names of authors of 1889 articles are published in the publication; the remaining 524 articles are anonymous. Nationals of as many as 67 countries contributed articles to the publication. Expectedly, majority of authors are Indians (1237 articles), followed by British (138), Bangladeshis (49), Swiss (47), Sri Lankans (35), Nepalese (34), Thai (32), Pakistanis (19), Japanese (17), German (16), Indonesians (11), Australians, Canadians and French (10 articles each). Nationals of the remaining 53 countries contributed between 91 articles each. UN Officials who contributed as many as 56 articles are not included in this analysis of the nationality of authors.

A map showing the geographical spread of authors is given below.

The overwhelming majority of authors (1090) are practitioners from civil society organisations, mostly working with rural or urban communities at the grassroots level. Of these, 871 belong to national NGOs, and 219 are affiliated with international NGOs. Heads and senior officials of almost every prominent national and international NGO engaged in disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and climate change adaptation in India, South Asia, and other regions of the world have contributed articles to *Southasiadisasters.net*. These include SEEDS India, Sphere India, CARE India, Save the Children, ActionAid, Caritas, Oxfam, RedR, ALNAP United Kingdom, NSET Nepal, CDRC Philippines, IFRC Geneva, ADRRN Japan, GNDR, Aga Khan Development Network, Pan American Health Organization,

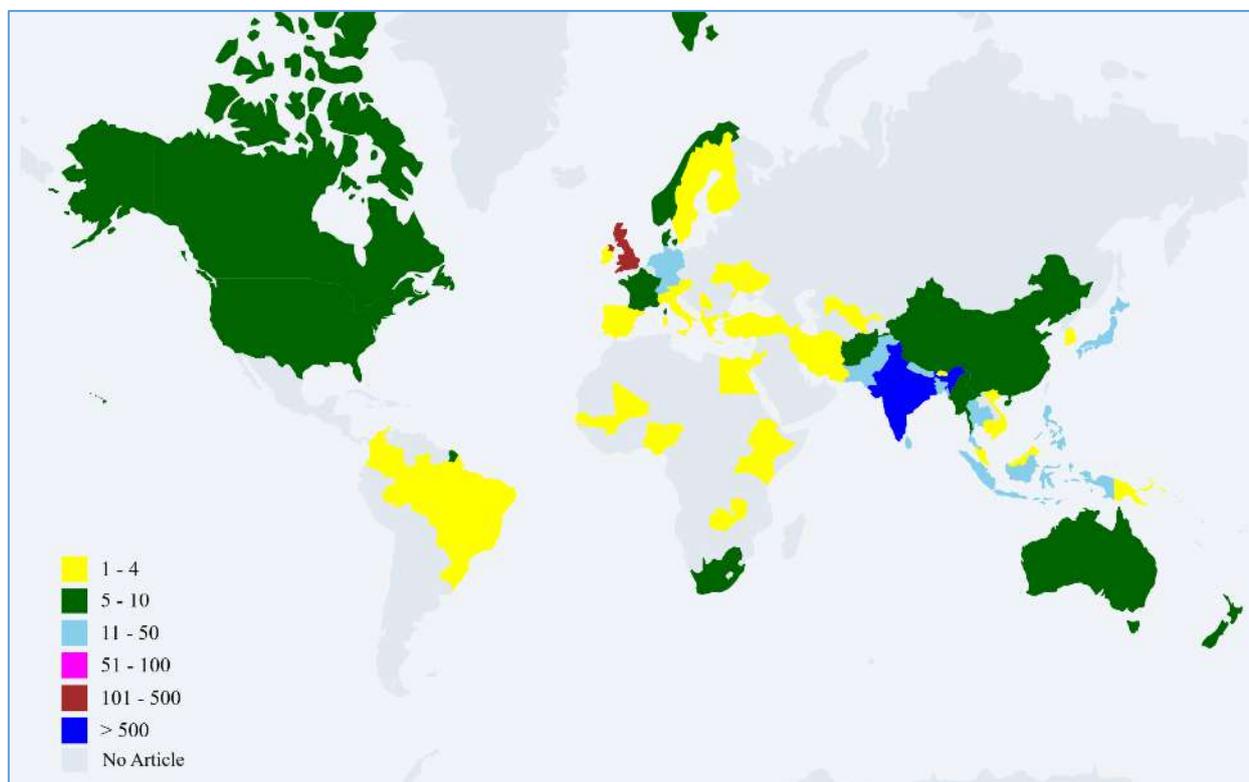


Figure 2. Geographical Spread of Authors by Nationality.

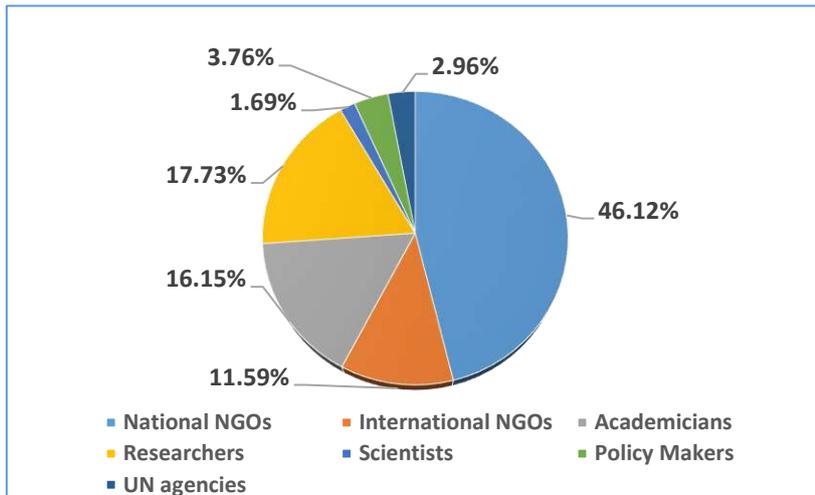


Figure 3. Profile and Affiliation of Authors of *Southasiadisasters.net*.

ARUP, BRACED, Plan International, CDP Philippines, ADPC Bangkok, LEAD Pakistan, DPNepal, Christian Aid, CASA, Transparency International, IUCN Gland, CDKN London, Cordaid Netherlands, Tearfund United Kingdom, COAR Afghanistan, ICVA Thailand, to name a few. Contributions from all these and several other organisations have made the 224 issues of *Southasiadisasters.net* probably one of the largest repositories of DRR practitioners' insights into the dynamics of risks as perceived by the communities and the complexities and challenges of risk reduction on the ground. Some of these insights would be well-suited for compilation into a separate publication.

The practitioners are joined by academicians and researchers from universities, research institutions, and policy think tanks from around the world. Academicians from universities and colleges have contributed 305 (16.15%) articles, while researchers in universities and other organisations, including media, have contributed as many as 335 (17.73%) articles. They have presented their perspectives and insights in simple language understandable to common readers

and practitioners. Academicians and scholars from almost every prominent university and research institution in India and South Asia, and some of the leading universities in the USA and Europe, have contributed to the publication.

Some of the academicians have come forward to curate a special issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* as guest editor, such as the special issue 175 on 'Understanding Recovery in Andaman and Nicobar Island', which was planned, designed and edited by Professor Janki Andheria, Head of Janshetji Tata School of Disaster Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. Scientists from various Science and Technology (S&T)-Based organisations, engineers, agricultural scientists, and medical professionals have also joined, contributing as many as 32 articles. These include scientists from the India Meteorological Department, the National Remote Sensing Centre, the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Indian Council of Medical Research, etc.

Policy makers from national and provincial governments, both

serving and retired, have contributed a total of 71 articles, adding value to the publication with their insights, comments, and advice. Many of these civil servants have played a crucial role in the prominent authors who have contributed to the publication make up the Who's Who in Disaster Risk Management. These include Ian Davis, Ben Wisner, John Twigg, Zenaida Willison, Salvano Briceno, Sir Graham Watson, Margareta Wahlström, Tony Vaux, Emily Wilkinson, Marla Petal, P K Mishra, Kamal Kishore, Sashidhar Reddy, Nanda Kumar, Asitha de Silva, Dilanthi Amaratunga, Richard Haigh, Taufika Ophiyandri, Jennifer Doherty, John Mitchell, Natalie Lovell, Catherine Forbes, JC Gaillard, Daniel Kull, Dr. Ilan Kelman, Marc Gordon, Manu Gupta, Prema Gopalan, U.C. Mohanty, Jean-Philippe Thomas, Jyoti K Parikh, Madhavi Malagoda Ariyabandu, Santosh Kumar, Koji Suzuki, G. Padmanabhan, Sara Ahmed, Sanny R. Jegillos, Puji Pujiono, Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett, P.G. Dhar Chakrabarti and many more, and above all, Mihir R Bhatt, the indomitable spirit behind the AIDMI and its publication the *Southasiadisasters.net*.

As the name suggests, the publication utilises the internet to connect the communities of practitioners with academicians, researchers, scientists, and policymakers in India, South Asia, and across the world, sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and sparking thoughts for innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions to build climate- and disaster-resilient communities. The 225th issue of the publication marks a milestone in a more promising journey that lies ahead. ■

India's Contribution to South Asia Meteorological and Hydrological Disaster Risk Reduction

By *Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra*, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, 3rd Vice President of the World Meteorological Organisation, India

I congratulate Southasiadisasters.net on completing 20 years of continuous publication, which has played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue, connecting disaster managers, and strengthening resilience across South Asia.

South Asia is highly vulnerable to various meteorological hazards, including flooding, inundation, strong winds, storm surges, and landslides, due to tropical cyclones (TCs), the southwest monsoon, thunderstorms, and western disturbances. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) plays a pivotal role in providing early warnings for these severe weather events to minimise death and damage in the region.

As the WMO recognised Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre (RSMC) for Tropical Cyclones, New Delhi (RSMC New Delhi), IMD provides regular tropical cyclone advisories to 13 member countries of World Meteorological Organisation/ Economic & Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (WMO/ESCAP) Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC) including Bangladesh, India, Iran, Maldives,

Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. These advisories include forecasts of cyclone genesis, track, intensity, landfall, and associated storm surge, wind, and rainfall. Additionally, IMD conducts annual training for cyclone forecasters in the region to enhance their capacity.

It also serves as one of seven Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCACs) worldwide, providing cyclone advisories to countries in the Asia Pacific and the Middle East for civil aviation, in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) guidelines.

As one among the 16 International Maritime Organisation (IMO) recognised centres, IMD provides advisories for the safety of the international shipping community for Met Area VIII(N) covering the NIO region under the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

IMD also acts as Regional Centre for Severe Weather Forecast for South Asia and provides daily guidance for heavy rain, strong winds, high waves, cyclonic disturbances and

storm surge to 9 countries in South Asia including Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan to support the National Meteorological Centres (NMCs) in preparing severe weather guidance for their respective countries.

IMD also serves as the Regional Centre for Flash Flood Guidance (SA-FFG) for South Asia, including Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. This centre provides real-time guidance on flash flood risk and threat at the sub-catchment scale.

IMD also supports the region by sharing meteorological observations, satellite radar and numerical weather prediction model products through the website. As a WMO-designated Regional Meteorological Training Centre (RMTC) and Regional Climate Centre (RCC), IMD contributes significantly to building regional capacity through training and seasonal outlooks under the South Asian Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF).

I wish Southasiadisasters.net all success in future. ■

"Southasiadisasters.net teaches and connects. Its concise articles and real stories have helped me better understand South Asia's resilience in action."

– Ilan Kelman, Professor, UCL and UiT, Norway

"In a divided world, Southasiadisasters.net builds a shared space for solidarity, where countries learn from each other instead of competing for attention."

– Dr. Salvano Briceño, Former Director, UNISDR

A Living Archive of Resilience: The Enduring Value of Southasiadisasters.net

By *Sanjaya Bhatia*, Head of Office Incheon, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Republic of Korea

Southasiadisasters.net is a vital knowledge platform that plays a crucial role in enhancing disaster risk reduction and resilience-building efforts across South Asia and beyond, serving as a unique and open-access resource that disseminates field-based insights, policy developments, and research findings on disasters and climate risks. What makes *Southasiadisasters.net* particularly important is its regional focus. South Asia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, facing frequent threats from floods, cyclones, earthquakes, droughts, and

now, the increasing impacts of climate change. In this context, the newsletter offers a vital platform for practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and community organisations to share experiences, best practices, and innovative solutions that are both locally rooted and globally informed. Another reason for its significance is its inclusivity. The platform often highlights the voices of marginalised and vulnerable groups—such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—ensuring that DRR strategies are people-centred and equitable. By offering diverse perspectives, it helps

challenge top-down approaches and promotes more participatory, community-driven models of disaster management. Additionally, *Southasiadisasters.net* plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between policy and practice by providing commentary that informs both grassroots action and national policy frameworks. *Southasiadisasters.net* is more than a newsletter—it is a living archive of knowledge, advocacy, and collaboration. Its ongoing contribution to building safer, more resilient communities makes it a vital tool in the global effort to reduce disaster risks and adapt to a changing climate. ■

KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP

Co-Creating Knowledge for a Resilient Future: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By *Zenaida Delica-Willison*, Advisor, Special Unit South-South Cooperation in UNDP, Thailand

Covering a variety of subjects that matter most to the global readership of *Southasiadisasters.net* makes this publication important and in demand. Twenty years of diligent presentation of research and analysis on issues confronting communities have established a dependable and trustworthy publication, valued by many as a reference and a reliable source of information and knowledge. AIDMI's efforts in regularly dispatching every issue have garnered respect and recognition worldwide.

The reputation developed by the *Southasiadisasters.net* did not happen overnight. It was a result of the cooperation of many people, with the hope that they could make a difference in this chaotic world

through exposing the reasons why hazards become disasters, why humanitarian crises occur, and why many parts of the earth experience extreme heat. More importantly, it explores the reasons why vulnerabilities and the exposure of many communities persist despite the advances in this modern world. Moreover, it does not neglect to incorporate the significant roles of civil society organisations along with their local partners in fostering disaster-resilient and disaster-resistant communities.

I would love to see this publication continue to tackle important concerns that challenge the resilience of the human race and to promote tested key actions or development solutions, which can be replicated in

vulnerable and exposed communities with less capacity. AIDMI's determination to pursue co-creation of knowledge and learning together needs to be emulated by those in the field of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation. I am one with AIDMI in promoting the nexus approach in addressing the multiple problems of disaster and climate risk. Let us continue to support one another and value what has been achieved, persisting in doing our best for the betterment of our communities. Please keep it up to inspire more writers and readers to contribute and propagate the ideals that *Southasiadisasters.net* upholds. High-quality and solid work pays! ■

Three Pillars of AIDMI's Vision and Southasiadisasters.net's Two-Decade Journey

"From relief to recovery, from risk reduction to resilience – Southasiadisasters.net has mapped how humanitarian action evolves when rooted in local leadership and learning."

For twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has chronicled South Asia's evolving relationship with disasters and climate change. Published by the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)**, the publication has served as both archive and agenda—a living record of humanitarian response, risk reduction, and climate resilience across India and beyond. From the 2004 tsunami to the heatwaves of the 2020s, it has upheld one consistent vision: that **humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate resilience** are inseparable parts of a shared journey toward justice and preparedness.

The first pillar, **Humanitarian Action: From Relief to Rights**, reflects how AIDMI and the publication reshaped emergency response into a people-centred process grounded in dignity and accountability. *Issue 6* (2005), "Tsunami, Gender and Recovery," captured how women and marginalised communities rebuilt after the 2004 tsunami, while *Issue 76* (2011), "Humanitarian Accountability Standard," localised global humanitarian standards like Sphere and HAP. During the pandemic, *Issue 200* (2022), "Reaching the Last Citizen in the Pandemic," documented how Panchayats and women's groups became frontline responders. These stories illustrate a clear shift—from delivering relief to empowering communities as co-creators of their own recovery.

The second pillar, **Disaster Risk Reduction: From Projects to Policy**, became the foundation of *Southasiadisasters.net* after the adoption of the Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks. *Issue 32* (2007), "Disaster Reduction (HFA DRR)," marked early efforts to institutionalise risk reduction in India's development planning. Later, *Issue 148* (2016), "First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan," documented how India's NDMP became the first to align with the Sendai priorities. Other issues—such as *Issue 49* (2008), on school safety, and *Issue 114* (2014), on urban resilience—translated field experience into national policy frameworks. Through these, AIDMI advanced a DRR approach that combined governance, capacity building, and financial inclusion.

The third pillar, **Climate Resilience: From Adaptation to Transformation**, captured the growing urgency of a changing climate. *Issue 145* (2016), "Implementing COP21 Paris Agreement," connected global climate goals with local realities, while *Issue 174* (2018) and *Issue 209* (2024) addressed heatwaves as humanitarian and economic crises. The most recent *Issue 224* (2025), "Nature-Based Cooling Solutions for Cities," showcased local innovations in Ahmedabad and Kochi that link climate adaptation to justice, livelihoods, and health. Across two decades, the publication has

redefined resilience—not just as survival under stress but as transformation driven by community power and equity.

Together, these three pillars form an integrated framework. **Humanitarian action** delivers immediate care and solidarity; **DRR** provides foresight, prevention, and governance; and **climate resilience** ensures long-term adaptation and justice. AIDMI's integrated practice—through microinsurance pilots, panchayat planning, women-led initiatives, and anticipatory action—demonstrates how these pillars reinforce each other.

After twenty years, the lessons are clear. Humanitarian systems must be **locally led and inclusive**. DRR must integrate **development, finance, and climate priorities**. Climate resilience must place **women, workers, and the poor** at its centre. As *Southasiadisasters.net* enters its third decade, it remains both witness and teacher—proving that resilience is not only about surviving crises, but about **building compassion, knowledge, and responsibility that endure**.

Through AIDMI's leadership, these three pillars—**Humanitarian Action, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Climate Resilience**—continue to form the foundation for a safer, fairer, and more prepared South Asia. ■

Reflected through AIDMI's Humanitarian Action, DRR, and Climate Resilience Work and Southasiadisasters.net

SFDRR Priority	PM's 10-Point Agenda (Corresponding Points)	How They Connect in Practice (with Key Issues and AIDMI Contributions)
Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risk	<p>Agenda 1: Integrate DRR into all development sectors.</p> <p>Agenda 2: Ensure risk coverage for all.</p> <p>Agenda 4: Invest in risk mapping and early warning.</p> <p>Agenda 10: Align with SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Sendai.</p>	AIDMI advanced <i>risk knowledge and local awareness</i> through community risk mapping, early warning pilots, and heat risk data initiatives . Reflected in “ <i>Understanding Uncertainty</i> ” (Issue 169, 2018), “ <i>Trans-Boundary Early Warning Systems in Asia</i> ” (Issue 180, 2019), and “ <i>Evaluating Extreme Heat Projects and Programmes</i> ” (Issue 214, 2024). These actions bridge humanitarian response with anticipatory action under SFDRR Priority 1 and PM Agendas 1, 4 & 10.
Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance	<p>Agenda 3: Invest in resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Agenda 5: Build local capacity and resilience.</p> <p>Agenda 7: Use technology to enhance DRR.</p> <p>Agenda 9: Build on women’s leadership and gender perspectives.</p>	AIDMI strengthened local disaster governance through district- and city-level plans, training of local governments, and digital DRR tools . Featured in “ <i>First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan</i> ” (Issue 148, 2016), “ <i>Implementing Cancun Agenda in South Asia</i> ” (Issue 157, 2017), and “ <i>Strengthening the Humanitarian System: From India to South Asia</i> ” (Issue 208, 2024). The focus on women-led preparedness and inclusive institutions links AIDMI’s humanitarian action and DRR governance with PM Agendas 3, 5, 7 & 9.
Priority 3: Investing in DRR for Resilience	<p>Agenda 2: Expand risk coverage and financial protection.</p> <p>Agenda 3: Promote resilient infrastructure.</p> <p>Agenda 6: Strengthen scientific and technical cooperation.</p> <p>Agenda 8: Leverage innovation and social media for DRR.</p>	AIDMI pioneered Afat Vimo (micro-insurance), parametric insurance pilots, and CSR partnerships for resilience financing. Documented in “ <i>Disaster Microinsurance: An Innovation for Transformation</i> ” (Issue 133, 2015), “ <i>Investing in DRR: CSR Initiatives in India</i> ” (Issue 176, 2018), and “ <i>Parametric Insurance Solutions for All</i> ” (Issue 218, 2025). These initiatives blend financial innovation and community resilience , operationalising PM Agendas 2, 3, 6 & 8.
Priority 4: Enhancing Preparedness and Building Back Better	<p>Agenda 4: Improve risk mapping and early warning.</p> <p>Agenda 5: Build local capacity and resilience.</p> <p>Agenda 9: Empower women as resilience leaders.</p> <p>Agenda 10: Ensure coherence among global and national frameworks.</p>	AIDMI’s humanitarian recovery and climate resilience work in Nepal, Kashmir, and urban India applied “ <i>Build Back Better</i> ” principles. Illustrated in “ <i>Rebuilding Nepal by Implementing SFDRR</i> ” (Issue 134, 2015), “ <i>Long-Term Recovery in Kashmir</i> ” (Issue 163, 2017), “ <i>Building Adaptation and Resilience to Heat Waves</i> ” (Issue 204, 2023), and “ <i>Nature-Based Cooling Solutions for Cities</i> ” (Issue 224, 2025). These experiences connect preparedness, gender inclusion, and climate adaptation – fulfilling PM Agendas 4, 5, 9 & 10.

Key Insights:

1. AIDMI’s humanitarian, DRR, and climate resilience initiatives translate both the SFDRR and PM’s 10-Point Agenda into field action.
2. From **community micro-insurance and early warning systems** to **urban heat adaptation and nature-based cooling**, AIDMI’s work bridges **policy, practice, and local innovation**.
3. *Southasiadisasters.net* has documented this journey across **over 80 issues since 2015**, connecting **global frameworks with grassroots realities** in India and South Asia. ■

Turning Knowledge into Action Across 20 Years

“From recovery to resilience, from local action to global leadership – Southasiadisasters.net has turned two decades of learning into national change.”

As *Southasiadisasters.net* marks its 225th issue, this milestone represents more than longevity—it embodies two decades of sustained commitment to turning knowledge into action. Since its first publication in 2005, the publication has served as a platform where ideas, innovation, and implementation converge. Produced by the AIDMI, the publication has enabled researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and communities to share insights that have shaped how India and South Asia understand and manage risk.

Over twenty years and 224 issues, *Southasiadisasters.net* has mirrored India’s evolution from reactive disaster response to proactive, inclusive, and climate-informed resilience. It has transformed AIDMI’s field experiences into national learning, connecting grassroots practice with global frameworks such as the **Sendai Framework**, the **Paris Agreement**, and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

The first agenda that emerged through its pages was **making disaster risk reduction (DRR) a development priority**. When DRR was viewed mainly as an emergency response, *Southasiadisasters.net* reframed it as an essential pillar of development. *Issue 148* (July 2016), “*First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan*,” marked India’s alignment with the Sendai Framework and demonstrated how DRR could be embedded in national and state planning.

The second agenda was **building heat resilience as a public safety and economic priority**. *Issue 209* (March

2024), “*Urgency of Heatwave Risk Management*,” brought heat to the centre of national policy. AIDMI’s work in Ahmedabad and Nagpur helped embed heat action planning within NDMA and IMD frameworks, prompting a national push for Heat Action Plans.

The third agenda focused on **strengthening local governments and Panchayats for risk reduction**. *Issue 200* (June 2022), “*Reaching the Last Citizen in the Pandemic*,” documented how local institutions led pandemic response, reinforcing the need for decentralised adaptation and preparedness.

The fourth agenda was **expanding school and child safety nationwide**. *Issue 49* (July 2008), “*School-Based DRR: Lessons for South Asia*,” influenced NDMA’s School Safety Guidelines and integrated risk awareness into education.

The fifth agenda was **promoting climate finance and microinsurance for vulnerable populations**. Through *Issue 133* (July 2015), “*Disaster Microinsurance: An Innovation for Transformation*,” AIDMI’s *Afat Vimo* pilot showed how financial tools can protect informal workers and small businesses from shocks.

The sixth agenda linked **humanitarian response with long-term recovery**. *Issue 134* (July 2015), “*Rebuilding Nepal by Implementing SFDRR*,” redefined recovery as resilience building, aligning humanitarian efforts with global frameworks.

The seventh agenda item advanced **urban resilience and climate-**

conscious cities. *Issue 114* (July 2014), “*Towards Urban Resilience*,” presented examples from Ahmedabad, Guwahati, and Sikkim, advocating risk-informed planning and resilient infrastructure.

The eighth agenda addressed **empowering women and local leadership in climate action**. *Issue 197* (January 2022), “*Learning Intersectionality of Women-Led DRR*,” showcased SEWA’s leadership, proving that gender equality is key to resilience.

The ninth agenda promoted **anticipatory action and early warning for all**. *Issue 221* (June 2025), “*Celebrating 150 Years of IMD*,” called for citizen-centred early warnings and anticipatory finance mechanisms.

The tenth agenda focused on **localising global frameworks** such as Sendai, Paris, and COP30. *Issue 215* (January 2025), “*Climate Extremes: Pathways for Preparedness*,” demonstrated how global resilience commitments become meaningful through local implementation.

Together, these ten agendas reveal how *Southasiadisasters.net* has influenced India’s resilience landscape—making DRR developmental, heat resilience mainstream, governance local, finance inclusive, and climate adaptation actionable. Guided by AIDMI’s humanitarian vision, the publication has turned twenty years of experience into enduring insight: that **knowledge, when shared and applied, is the most powerful tool for resilience.** ■

Connecting Local Voices to Global Frameworks for Resilience

“Each issue of Southasiadisasters.net has been a bridge – carrying local lessons from India and South Asia into the global conversations that shape our shared future.”

For two decades, *Southasiadisasters.net* has turned local experiences of disaster risk reduction (DRR), humanitarian response, and climate resilience into insights that have informed global policy. Published by the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)**, the publication has served as a vital link between field realities and the world’s leading frameworks – from the **Hyogo and Sendai Frameworks** to the **Paris Agreement** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It has shown that global commitments achieve meaning only when grounded in local action.

The first global agenda reflected in its pages is the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030)**. *Issue 148* (2016), *“First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan,”* documented India’s pioneering effort to align its national plan with Sendai’s priorities. Later issues such as *Issue 208* (2024) extended this alignment to regional cooperation, demonstrating that DRR must be integral to governance and development.

The **Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015)** became another pillar of engagement. *Issue 145* (2016), *“Implementing COP 21 Paris Agreement,”* and *Issue 205* (2023), *“Building Back Greener,”* linked global climate policy to local initiatives by cities, farmers, and small enterprises. These issues stressed that effective climate action merges adaptation, mitigation, and finance at the community level.

The third global framework, the **Sustainable Development Goals**

(SDGs), has been central to the publication’s agenda. *Issue 123* (2015), *“Towards Climate Compatible Development in India,”* and *Issue 154* (2016), *“Building Resilient Communities,”* connected local DRR efforts to SDG 1 on poverty reduction, SDG 11 on sustainable cities, and SDG 13 on climate action – showing that resilience is the foundation of sustainable development.

From its early years, *Southasiadisasters.net* engaged with the **Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015)**. *Issue 32* (2007) and *Issue 53* (2008) reviewed regional progress in institutionalising DRR and established the publication as South Asia’s platform for monitoring Hyogo’s implementation at local levels.

The publication has also advanced the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Resilience Finance**, advocating inclusion and innovation. *Issue 133* (2015), *“Disaster Microinsurance,”* and *Issue 218* (2025), *“Parametric Insurance Solutions for All,”* demonstrated how financial tools and insurance can support global resilience financing goals.

After the **World Humanitarian Summit (2016)**, the publication examined evolving humanitarian agendas. *Issue 186* (2020), *“COVID-19 and the New Humanitarian Agenda,”* and *Issue 208* (2024), *“Strengthening the Humanitarian System,”* captured the shift from relief to localisation and long-term recovery.

The global discussion on **migration and climate displacement** also

found resonance in *Issue 216* (2025), *“Towards COP 30: Key Action Areas for Displacement.”* It called for policy frameworks that recognise mobility as adaptation and protect displaced communities.

Nature-based resilience emerged through the **Global Commission on Adaptation and Nbs**. *Issue 224* (2025), *“Nature-Based Cooling Solutions for Cities,”* and *Issue 223* (2025), *“Coastal Disasters with a Focus on Extreme Heat,”* showed how ecosystem solutions reduce risks and restore balance.

Issue 219 (2025), *“Harnessing Collective Knowledge,”* contributed to the **Global Goal on Adaptation and Loss and Damage Mechanism**, emphasising that local data and community priorities must guide climate justice and financing.

Finally, *Issue 221* (2025), *“Celebrating 150 Years of IMD,”* aligned with the **United Nations Early Warning for All Initiative**, linking India’s progress to global goals for inclusive, anticipatory early warning systems.

From the Hyogo Framework to COP30, *Southasiadisasters.net* has consistently connected global commitments with local practice. Its two-decade journey demonstrates that resilience grows when global policy listens to local voices. Through AIDMI’s humanitarian, DRR, and climate resilience work, the publication has transformed South Asia from a recipient of global frameworks into an active contributor – ensuring that local experience continues to shape the world’s resilience agenda. ■

RESILIENT ASIA

Celebrating a Catalyst for Resilience: ADRRN's Tribute to Southasiadisasters.net

By Takeshi Komino, ADRRN Chairperson, Japan

On behalf of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN), I extend my warmest congratulations to AIDMI and the entire Southasiadisasters.net community on reaching this remarkable milestone of 225 issues spanning 20 years of dedicated service to disaster and climate resilience.

This achievement exemplifies what ADRRN's Strategy 2030 envisions: enhancing local knowledge and practice on resilience through linking science and practice. With 2,413 articles by nearly 1,900 contributors from 67 countries, Southasiadisasters.net has become

an invaluable platform for knowledge generation and sharing—a cornerstone of building disaster-resilient societies across Asia. The recent extreme heat focus, prompting discussions among researchers and practitioners, as well as policymakers, AIDMI's proactive contribution to the regional risk reduction agenda is remarkable.

As ADRRN works to strengthen the generation of evidence while acting as an amplifier for learning and knowledge sharing, publications like Southasiadisasters.net are indispensable. Your commitment to continuous publication

demonstrates the power of commitment and sustained knowledge exchange in transforming disaster risk reduction from a specialised activity into an embedded way of life. And it is more difficult to continue such activities, as we see in the sector, that many 'pilot' projects fail to sustain or scale.

As we collectively work toward a more resilient Asia by 2030, Southasiadisasters.net remains a trusted catalyst for the movement we seek to build. Congratulations once again, and thank you for your invaluable contribution to our shared mission. ■

LIVING KNOWLEDGE

Celebrating a Tradition of Practical Wisdom: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By Dr. Ian Davis, Global Leader on Disaster Risk Reduction, United Kingdom

I am delighted to extend my congratulations to AIDMI on this significant milestone. How the editorial team and varied authors manage to sustain all these wonderful publications on a regular basis remains a total mystery to me! Over the years, the quality in the selection of relevant topics, clear, concise writing, attractive format, rich original insights, and, most importantly, 'the ever-practical application', are all aspects we have come to expect and value; we are never disappointed!

Some years ago, my wife and I had the honour of visiting AIDMI in Ahmedabad, where we were introduced to a large group of school teachers who met regularly to

share and learn from one another about school-based disaster preparedness. We were so impressed with their dedication to the safety of their students. And just a few months later, a publication emerged that captured the topic of child and school safety. It is through this close relationship between theory, dialogue concerning best practice and widely distributed online publication that these publication issues play such a vital role in supporting Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change.

Looking towards the next 200 issues, may I be permitted to encourage the editors and contributors to:

- never be afraid to tackle topics that are politically sensitive,
- keep looking for newly emerging risks and innovative ways to reduce them,
- challenge entrenched orthodoxy when it fails to deliver what is needed,
- maintain the attractive format that pleases the eye and engages the heart.

I extend my deepest gratitude for this dedicated service in reducing risks, and I would like to thank all those involved in these excellent publications, which meet such a vital need in our increasingly fragile world. ■

Harnessing Regional Experience for Global Solidarity: The Role of Southasiadisasters.net in Advancing South-South Cooperation

By Dr Denis Nkala⁴

I first came across *Southasiadisasters.net* during my assignment to promote South-South and triangular cooperation as the Regional Coordinator for Asia-Pacific at the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). My work entailed advancing collaborative frameworks that empowered countries across the Global South to share knowledge, technology, and policy innovations with emphasis on strengthening regional partnerships, fostering inclusive development, and integrating South-south cooperation into broader global agendas.

As climate-induced disasters intensify across the Global South, the imperative for collaborative resilience has become a defining challenge of our time. In this context, *Southasiadisasters.net* has emerged as a strategic instrument for fostering South-South cooperation. Its relevance transcends geographic boundaries, offering a repository of lived experiences, policy innovations, and community-based responses that resonate with disaster-prone nations across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific. In this way, the publication has transcended its regional brief to touch many other areas outside South Asia.

The publication's strength lies in its ability to document the realities of disaster management in South Asia—a region marked by complex vulnerabilities and diverse socio-political landscapes. From the flood plains of Bangladesh to the seismic zones of Nepal and the cyclone-prone coasts of India, the case studies and analyses presented within its pages reflect challenges and solutions that others in the Global South find relevant as they navigate their own disasters. These narratives inspire adaptive thinking and contextual innovation, offering practical templates for countries facing similar resource constraints and governance dynamics.

Moreover, *Southasiadisasters.net* elevates Southern voices within the global discourse on disaster risk reduction. By foregrounding indigenous knowledge, community-led initiatives, and regionally developed technologies, it affirms that resilience is cultivated through

shared experience and mutual learning. Indeed, the Network itself reaches beyond South Asian experts to include United Nations staff and experts in the field of Disaster Management.

The publication also facilitates policy alignment among Southern nations. Its emphasis on integrating disaster risk reduction with climate adaptation reflects a convergence increasingly embraced across the Global South, enabling joint programming and coordinated advocacy.

Ultimately, *Southasiadisasters.net* is more than a chronicle of regional events—it is a bridge between communities and nations striving for resilience. Its continued evolution as a platform for South-South cooperation will enrich the discourse on disaster management and strengthen the collective capacity of the Global South to shape its own future. ■

"Southasiadisasters.net एक बहुविविधता को सम्मान देने वाला प्रकाशन है—जो अनेक भाषाओं, विविध ज्ञान परंपराओं और जोखिम को समझने के अनेक दृष्टिकोणों को महत्व देता है।"

"Southasiadisasters.net is a publication of the pluriverse – valuing many languages, many knowledges, and many ways of understanding risk."

– JC Gaillard, Disaster Researcher, New Zealand

⁴ The author, Dr Denis Nkala is a former Regional Coordinator (Asia-Pacific) for the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) from 2005- 2022 and subsequently served as UNOSSC's Chief for Intergovernmental and UN System Affairs. In both capacities, he interacted and contributed to Southasiadisasters.net and is currently an adviser working closely with the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute.

Championing Learning for a Changing Climate: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By Dr. Jennifer Doherty, ALNAP, United Kingdom

Southasiadisasters.net has been a longstanding source of information for both regional and global learning among humanitarian and disaster risk reduction practitioners over the past twenty years. I've seen it grow over time to become not only a publication with a wide readership but also a community of knowledge and practice through the regular webinars and roundtables it convenes. Over these twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has created an inclusive space for exchange of ideas and learning across and beyond the South Asian region to help improve anticipation and response to disasters. By engaging with their work, I've had the opportunity to hear from contributors across a variety of sectors and contexts, benefiting from the collective knowledge they are building.

The topics tackled by the publication have been wide-ranging and of contemporary importance, including past special issues on accountability to crisis-affected populations and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, *Southasiadisasters.net* remains in my

"Few platforms combine grassroots experience with global relevance the way Southasiadisasters.net does. It turns local voices into global learning."

mind as a pioneer in addressing issues related to climate change. In recent years, it has become recognised as a champion of learning on adaptation to heat waves – a growing concern worldwide. As the world continues to seek solutions to these increasingly frequent and consequential events, the South Asian region has valuable lessons to share. Usefully, *Southasiadisasters.net* has become a consistent source of regional knowledge on extreme heat. The special issues and contributing articles highlight learning across a variety of factors – from technical mitigation and adaptation solutions to highlighting the experiences and capacities of the people most affected by these crises.

There is a natural alignment of goals between the work of *Southasiadisasters.net* and the work

we do at ALNAP (the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action), supporting global learning in the humanitarian sector. But beyond shared objectives, the team behind *Southasiadisasters.net* can be relied upon for their thoughtful, caring and committed approach to collaboration. ALNAP has been pleased to contribute to several recent issues of the publication, including one that helped us to understand the regional implications of our latest State of the Humanitarian System report. We continue to include issues of the *Southasiadisasters.net* publication in the ALNAP HELP Library collections on key topics – particularly on climate issues – recognising it as a resource that can support global learning with strong regional insights. We look forward to the production of future insightful issues of the publication and hope to continue working with *Southasiadisasters.net* as a key partner and friend in championing learning. ■

"This journal is not just a newsletter – it's a living archive of knowledge, advocacy, and collaboration for learning now and ever."

– Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of Office, UNDRR Incheon

"Southasiadisasters.net reminds us that knowledge is not just for the few – it is power shared, lessons exchanged, and resilience built together."

– Dr. Santosh Kumar, Policy Expert on Disaster Risk Governance, India

"It's not just a publication. It's an archive of what works, what matters, and what must not be forgotten in disaster recovery."

– Ben Wisner, Author and Risk Reduction Scholar

Why Southasiadisasters.net is Important: Power, People, and the Practice of Risk Reduction

By Paul Knox Clarke, Principal, ADAPT Initiative, United Kingdom

I can't claim to have read every one of the 225 issues of Southasiadisasters.net - but I have read quite a few of them, and every single time I have come across something new (to me), interesting, and important.

SouthAsiaDisasters.net readership benefits from an approach that seems to me to be far less narrow and self-regarding than that of the formal humanitarian system. It is animated not by a specific mandate or the desire to follow donor priorities, but by the experiences, concerns and curiosities of practitioners and researchers fully engaged in the reality of disasters, and the experiences of those most vulnerable to them.

This engagement creates one of the publication's most characteristic attributes: a focus on power, marginalisation and risk, and how these abstract concepts play out for real people getting on with their lives. Rather than - largely anonymous - 'vulnerable groups',

"अज्ञात 'असुरक्षित गटां' ऐवजी, Southasiadisasters.net शाळकरी मुले, ट्रक चालक, उपासक आणि महिला शेतकरी अशा प्रत्यक्ष व्यक्तींना भेडसावणाऱ्या धोक्याच्या वास्तवाचा विचार करते."

"Rather than anonymous 'vulnerable groups', Southasiadisasters.net considers the realities of risk for real people – school children, truck drivers, worshippers, and women farmers."

Southasiadisasters.net considers the realities of risk for real people: school children, tram drivers, worshippers at religious festivals and women farmers.

A focus on what is really happening on the ground, and where, means that Southasiadisasters.net often identifies topics and trends well before they become mainstream - and some that never do become mainstream, but should be. In 2015, long before many of us became involved in the topic, the publication was considering the risks of heatwaves (an area which it has considered, to great effect, to this day). The use of insurance as an

approach to disaster management, which is such a large part of current conversations about (climate) risk finance, was first addressed in Southasiadisasters.net fifteen years ago.

Similarly, Southasiadisasters.net has addressed the often overlooked issue of crowd management, and has kept a consistent focus on challenges experienced by poor people in cities.

I may not be reading Southasiadisasters.net in 2045, but I hope that, when it reaches forty years of age, even more than the current 30,000 subscribers will be - I'm sure it will be at least as immediate and engaging then as it is now. ■

"High-quality and solid work pays. Southasiadisasters.net is proof of that. Its voice is vital to keep us grounded and inspired."

– Zenaida Delica-Willison, Ex-UNDP South-South Cooperation, Thailand

"Too often, practice is disconnected from policy. Southasiadisasters.net is where they meet – and where action begins."

– Dr. Emily Wilkinson, ODI and Resilience Expert

"The journal listens first, then speaks. That's why it continues to resonate with the unheard and unseen."

– Prof. Dilanthi Amarantunga, University of Huddersfield

On Relationships, Grounding and Languages in Disaster Risk Reduction

By *JC Gaillard*, Waipapa Taumata Rau, Aotearoa, University of the Philippines Resilience Institute, New Zealand

Southasiadisasters.net is a unique publication; one that offers a rare opportunity for practitioners, policy makers and scholars to share their experiences and perspectives in fostering the reduction of disaster risk across South Asia. As such, *Southasiadisasters.net* is a site of convergence that has organically emerged as our go-to resource for anything disaster-related in the region, whether it is to learn how we understand harm and hardship or how actors of all sorts respond to people's suffering. What has made it so powerful and trusted is that *Southasiadisasters.net* rejects both hierarchies and norms, which is both rare and needed in a field of scholarship, policy and action that is so normalised after Western standards.

In *Southasiadisasters.net*, all forms of knowledge, all experiences, and all perspectives are valued as the mirror of their own truth and reflective of their respective epistemological traditions. *Southasiadisasters.net* is indeed a culturally-grounded

publication; one that fosters genuine relationships across cultures and professional backgrounds. It recognises that South Asia is an incredibly diverse region and hence appreciates difference as a strength. Ultimately, *Southasiadisasters.net* encourages people and actors of disaster risk reduction to share their own experiences of harm and hardship as a form of enrichment. Learning is indeed to come from diversity and plurality rather than universality and normalisation.

Southasiadisasters.net makes such relationships possible because it offers a (very) rare opportunity to publish in diverse local and regional languages, without forcing translation. It thus recognises that languages are the main vehicles of our thoughts, of how we make sense of the world, including when it comes to natural phenomena, harm, hardship and suffering. *Southasiadisasters.net* therefore constitutes a grounded pathway for local people, practitioners and

scholars to truly express their experiences and perspectives, unfiltered by the standards of translation and the legacy of colonial languages. Opacity is seen as an opportunity to emphasise difference and foster learning.

This non-hierarchical and non-normative ethos has made *Southasiadisasters.net* one of the flagships of the [Disaster Studies Manifesto and Accord](#), alongside other grounded publications such as *Jàmá: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies* in Africa and the *Revista de Estudios Latinoamericanos sobre Reducción del Riesgo de Desastres* (REDER) in South America. The fact that it is here publishing its 225th issue is an obvious sign that these publications are needed, that it is possible to favour local audience without excluding outsiders' perspectives, that opacity and hybridity are opportunities rather than challenges.

As such, *Southasiadisasters.net* is a publication of the pluriverse. ■

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Bridging Policy and Practice: The Relevance of Southasiadisasters.net for Global Climate and Mobility Dialogues

By *Lorenzo Guadagno*, PAMAD Project Coordinator, Platform on Disaster Displacement Secretariat, Switzerland

Earlier this year, AIDMI and the Secretariat of the Platform on Disaster Displacement co-published an [issue of Southasiadisaster.net](#) gathering contributions by researchers and practitioners on different topics at the intersection of human mobility and climate change.

The idea was to take stock of the state of relevant discussions following the UNFCCC COP29, and trace a way forward for advocacy and action in the lead-up to COP30. *Southasiadisasters.net* represented a uniquely valuable platform to

elaborate and disseminate these analyses.

This publication provided an opportunity to bring together practitioners and researchers to produce a comprehensive research and advocacy outcome, spanning topics as diverse as displacement as

loss and damage, migration as adaptation, just transition and participation of people on the move in climate change decision-making. *Southeastasia.net's* focus on covering (and bridging) different policy areas, including DRR, climate change adaptation and loss and damage, humanitarian action and recovery, was key to this end. Moreover, most of the topics covered by the authors were highly time-sensitive, and the format and editorial process of *Southeastasia.net* were key to publishing a very timely contribution to the discussion.

Perhaps most importantly, *Southasiadisasters.net's* typical contributors, audience and content

have a strong rooting in the subregion's context, priorities and challenges. This required an additional reflection for us and the authors of our issue on how to best link global policy topics and messages to concrete issues faced by communities living at the frontlines of climate change – a useful exercise to keep policy discussions and related advocacy grounded and effective. At the same time, through *Southasiadisasters.net*, authors were able to reach a broad audience of professionals largely working outside UNFCCC processes and in countries that have huge stakes in the progress towards mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage

objectives, commitments and investments.

The importance of having publications that can promote exchanges and disseminate ideas on policy-relevant questions from the Global South cannot be understated. In a global landscape in which multilateral efforts and dialogues on humanitarian crises, development and the environment risk being weakened or fully undermined, the evidence and analyses that *Southeastasia.net* regularly provides are a collective reminder of the urgency of decisive action to address humanitarian needs, face the drivers of vulnerability to disasters, and sustainably reduce risks. ■

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Teaching and Connecting

By Ilan Kelman, Professor of Disasters and Health, University College London, Professor II, UiT the Arctic University of Norway

Southasiadisasters.net is so important to me because it teaches and connects. The publications and website have taught me a great deal about disasters and disaster risk reduction across South Asia, while allowing me to connect with those who are involved in the teaching and the actions.

I have not had the privilege of spending much time in South Asia. My total experience spans a week in the Maldives, primarily around the capital atoll of Malé, and just over a week in Delhi. Barely an opportunity to get to know the region, its challenges, the opportunities, and the people striving for and succeeding in making the region safer.

Southasiadisasters.net gives me a vital window into the region and the

ongoing work there. It highlights for me what I ought to know and the people involved in enacting activities to deal with disasters and reduce disaster risks. Their perspectives vary by profession, location, and mandate, proffering rich diversity in insight and advice.

All this helps me connect with people from the region and those with similar interests. In addition to the disasters which hit the headlines, extensive successes and long-term programmes inspire me. It is not just about seeing people succeed within and for South Asia, but also about connecting with the people who are making it happen. Then, I can seek advice and support for the work I do where I live.

I hope that *Southasiadisasters.net* will be able to continue this teaching and connecting in the future. One possibility could be to expand the formats of contributions: poems, short fiction, photo essays, drawings, theatre scripts, and musical scores. Audio and video files can be included for readers of the publications online. Varying the formats could facilitate a wide variety of contributors, including children, elders, taxi drivers, artists, shopkeepers, teachers, and many more, regardless of their formal disaster-related education and training.

I look forward to continuing to be inspired and to hopefully visiting so much more of this amazing region to learn from its wonderful people. ■

Building a Regional Epistemic Community: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By *Abha Mishra*, Head of office-Odisha, Regional Office (Eastern & Central), United Nations Development Programme, Odisha, India

Southasiadisasters.net is a thematic and area-based publication which is important as it curates specialised knowledge that might otherwise remain fragmented across disciplines or geographies. It has acted as a critical knowledge platform in the South Asian context for issues on disasters, climate change, and resilience by bridging research, practice, and policy. Its thematic issues have curated diverse voices from scholars, NGOs, grassroots actors, and policymakers by making it a space where localised experiences and indigenous knowledge interact with global frameworks like the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement

and SDGs. It has brought together on a single platform focused intellects, decision-makers, community practitioners and communities.

This publication has allowed for deep engagement with context and lived experiences, highlighting local challenges and innovations that are often overlooked in mainstream or globally oriented publications. Through the documented lived realities alongside technical solutions around risk reduction and adaptation, the publication has supported to build a regional epistemic community that counters the dominance of Eurocentric disaster discourses. It has not only

informed practices in South Asia but also contributed to shaping inclusive, equity-oriented disaster governance in the region. In academic terms, the publication has contributed to what is often called "situated knowledge" (Haraway, 1988), resisting one-size-fits-all narratives and instead foregrounding specificity and diversity. In short, Southasiadisasters.net has supported context-sensitive policymaking through democratized knowledge and building an epistemic community that can influence both local action and global discourses. ■

Sustaining a Legacy of Learning: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By *G. Padmanabhan*, Former Emergency Analyst, UNDP, India

It gives me immense pleasure to share with you my views on *Southasiadisasters.net* on the occasion of its commendable achievement of completing 225 issues over a period of two decades. It began after the Indian Ocean Tsunami, which, in reality, triggered numerous developments in the field of disaster management by local, state, and national-level entities. Southasiadisasters.net is one such initiative that has carved out a unique niche which did not exist in this region. As far as I know, it comprises voluntary contributions from field practitioners, experts, academics, managers, and other key

stakeholders involved in various aspects of disaster management.

Various issues of Southasiadisasters.net, since its inception, have been emphasising emerging concerns based on field experience and research. These issues have helped in highlighting the topics at various national and International platforms. The timely articulation of these "experience-based pointers" has facilitated informed discussions among participants and planners, providing guidance for resolutions and plans of action. ADMI, in collaboration with many networks in the region, has

effectively led this process of timely projection of issues and lessons learnt.

Southasiadisasters.net, like many such initiatives, faces several challenges in the current world of a resource-strapped environment. Therefore, stakeholder engagement is vital for its continuity without compromising quality. Of course, the overall challenges that development faces due to climate change, uncertain political stability, and associated social, physical, and environmental vulnerabilities will always pose a threat to disaster risk reduction. ■

REGIONAL REFLECTIONS

Bridging Knowledge for Resilience: The Sri Lankan Experience

By Anoja Seneviratne, Director (Mitigation Research & Development), Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka

Every Disaster in life writes a painful chapter. Knowledge portals ensure those chapters become manuals for resilience, not forgotten stories. In this context, *Southasiadisasters.net* is a valuable regional platform for capturing, discussing, and disseminating disaster risk reduction and recovery knowledge not only within South Asia but also plays an important role in knowledge sharing, practitioner reflection, regional peer learning, and policy discourse within the global community as well.

Southasiadisasters.net helps Sri Lankan practitioners compare and learn from other regional experiences, potentially avoiding avoidable mistakes. Reflecting on what went well, what didn't, and why is central to improving future disaster preparedness in Sri Lanka. *Southasiadisasters.net*'s thematic issues (e.g., pandemics, heatwaves, and strengthening the humanitarian system) provide a structured framework for reflection that can inform future planning. Sri Lanka can benefit from such regional

"जीवन में हर आपदा एक दर्दनाक अध्याय लिखती है।

Southasiadisasters.net यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि ये अध्याय भूली हुई कहानियाँ न बनें, बल्कि लचीलेपन के मार्गदर्शक बनें।"

"Every disaster in life writes a painful chapter. Knowledge portals *Southasiadisasters.net* ensure those chapters become manuals for resilience, not forgotten stories."

framing because disasters often transcend national boundaries (e.g., pandemics, climate change, cyclones) and regional coordination is essential. Learning from the challenges and strategies of neighbouring countries helps build a more robust regional disaster risk reduction strategy.

Sri Lankan policymakers and DRR planners may draw on *Southasiadisasters.net*'s reflective analyses and case studies when preparing or revising national or district-level disaster management plans. The publication provides valuable insights into the implementation of the Sendai Framework and the formulation of school safety policies.

If Sri Lanka were to collaborate more deeply with *Southasiadisasters.net*, there are a few practical considerations such as; Language and accessibility which may limit reach at the community level in Sri Lanka, Contextual differences due to the geography, policy frameworks, governance, and social systems variations within the region, lack of technical or editorial support, or incentives, to consistently contribute to *Southasiadisasters.net* and the absence of monitoring and feedback system.

Sri Lanka's resilience is stronger when South Asia learns together. Portals like *Southasiadisasters.net* are bridges of shared survival. ■

परिस्थितीशी जुळवून घेण्याची क्षमता ज्ञानापासून सुरू होते आणि *southasiadisasters.net* ने गेल्या २० वर्षांपासून सातत्याने, धैर्यपूर्वक आणि सहकार्याने सामुदायिक रित्या काम करत आहे.

"Resilience begins with knowledge – and *Southasiadisasters.net* has shared it consistently, courageously, and collaboratively for 20 years."

– Mihir R. Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, India

Two Decades of Southasiadisasters.net: A Platform for Inclusive Resilience

By *Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu*, Senior Expert, Disaster and Climate Risk, Social Inclusion Member-Board of Directors, Duryog Nivaran, Sri Lanka

In 2005, when the world was grappling with the devastation and loss caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami, the need for shared learning became more pressing than ever. In my view, *Southasiadisasters.net* was a humble yet visionary initiative in response to this need. It strived to fill this gap by creating a space for collective reflection, knowledge sharing, and learning on disaster risk and resilience in the region.

South Asia, the most populous subcontinent, continues to face some of the world's highest levels of disaster risk, compounded by poverty, inequality, and growing

climate pressures. In such a complex setting, sharing knowledge and experiences from multiple sources and layers remains vital for advancing inclusive development. *Southasiadisasters.net* continues with this undertaking, gathering and disseminating lessons from diverse contexts: community innovations and practices, research insights, and facilitating navigating an increasingly complex riskscape.

What makes *Southasiadisasters.net* truly special is its inclusive and participatory approach. It serves as a platform for civil society organisations - both small and large - to communicate, highlighting the

voices of marginalised and excluded communities facing disaster risk. Its undertaking on fostering dialogue on contemporary and evolving issues of disaster risk reduction is noteworthy.

Southasiadisasters.net stands today as a trusted knowledge platform linking local realities with global commitments for disaster risk reduction and community resilience. Reaching a 20-year milestone is a testament to its voluntary spirit, credibility and continuing value. I am certain the team leading and supporting this work will sustain and strengthen these efforts. ■

INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE

Amplifying Community Voices for Resilience: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By *Dr. Md. Shahid Uz Zaman*, Founder Executive Director, Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), Bangladesh

Greetings from Bangladesh. It is with great appreciation that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 225th issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* and its two decades of uninterrupted publication. This milestone is a remarkable testimony to the publication's credibility, inclusiveness, and commitment to advancing disaster and climate resilience across South Asia and beyond.

From my perspective at the Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), *Southasiadisasters.net* has been an invaluable resource. Its accessible, practice-oriented articles have helped bridge the gap between field-level realities and policy discourse. For example, ESDO's work on climate change adaptation, food security, and youth resilience has frequently drawn upon insights

shared in the publication. The comparative experiences from different countries have broadened our understanding and inspired localised solutions in rural and marginalised areas of Bangladesh.

What makes *Southasiadisasters.net* unique is its consistent effort to amplify the voices of communities most affected by disasters. By presenting grassroots perspectives alongside academic and policy insights, the publication ensures that strategies for resilience remain grounded in lived realities. This has been particularly useful in our advocacy with government bodies and development partners, where evidence and narratives from the publication have strengthened our case for inclusive, dignity-centred development.

Looking ahead, I see even greater value in *Southasiadisasters.net* expanding its digital accessibility – through interactive formats, podcasts, and more visual content – to engage younger readers and practitioners. Furthermore, deepening its coverage on emerging issues such as climate-induced migration, green jobs, and digital risk governance could make it even more relevant in shaping future resilience pathways.

In summary, *Southasiadisasters.net* is more than just a publication; it is a platform for solidarity, knowledge exchange, and inspiration. I thank AIDMI for sustaining this initiative with such dedication and vision. May the publication continue to flourish and guide us in building a safer and more resilient South Asia. ■

Learning Across Continents: Reflections on the Global Reach of Southasiadisasters.net

By *Dr Hippolyte Traoré, MD, PhD, Public Health Researcher, National Institute of Public Health, Ministry of Health and Social Development, Bamako, Mali*

AIDMI sparked a great interest in me to read and explore each new post on Southasiadisasters.net. My teammates and I are grateful to you for the published article "Heatwave in Mali: impact on elderly mortality in Bamako from 2013 to 2016. Before publishing, I actively participated in this panel as a speaking host. Then I presented the summary of our teamwork outcomes. It was a great moment for me to share the Malian experience with other researchers and scientists. After the panel, I shared the published article with my teammates at our National Institute of Public Health (NIPH-Bamako/Mali).

I participated in many AIDMI's virtual conferences, especially the virtual roundtable on celebrating 150 years of IMD: frontiers for early warning. Its accuracy and forecast have improved accessibility to early warning information, and the ability to communicate weather-related actions has been significantly enhanced by IMD. I mention that Dr Mohapatra has mostly advanced early warning systems to serve not just India but the entire South Asian region and other countries. That's wise, he recently earned a very prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Award for 2025 for disaster risk reduction. He continues to inspire many researchers,

politicians, scientists and countries around the world.

AIDMI provides me with a great opportunity to understand the importance of Southasiadisasters.net: how it disseminates knowledge acquired from panels, collects data, analyses climate changes, and how to mitigate disasters and empower community resilience.

I highly appreciate the posts of Southasiadisasters.net. I enhanced my English skills in virtual meetings with panel members and am excited to gain more knowledge and experience with them. ■

KNOWLEDGE LEGACY

In Celebration of Twenty Years of Southasiadisasters.net

By *Muhammad Taher, Duryog Nivaran, Bangladesh*

It's truly inspiring to see Southasiadisasters.net mark twenty years of dedicated service. Over this period, the newsletter has evolved into a trusted platform that brings together scholars, practitioners, and leaders from around the world who are deeply committed to disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. I've been pleased to share my own thoughts and experiences through this platform, which now extends far beyond South Asia. The numbers alone are impressive: nearly 1,900 writers from 67 countries have contributed about 2,500 articles, and the readership has grown to over 30,000 worldwide. That's a remarkable achievement! What I find most inspiring is the newsletter's simplicity and openness. Short, focused articles on critical issues have encouraged contributions from a wide range of disciplines. In doing so, Southasiadisasters.net has filled a

"Southasiadisasters.net" এর বিশেষত্ব হচ্ছে যে এটি একটি সহজবোধ্য, সত্যাপ্রয়ী ও নব্বিশ্বযোগ্য প্রকাশনা যা এশীয় মূল্যবোধের উপর ভিত্তি করে তৈরি। এটি দক্ষিণ এশিয়া জুড়ে দুর্ভাগ্যে কষতগিরস্ত সম্প্রদায় গুলোকে একে অপরের সাথে যুক্ত করে এবং তাদের পারস্পরিক আশার-নিরাশার কথা বিনিময় করে সুযোগ তৈরি করে দেয়।

"What makes Southasiadisasters.net special is its simplicity and authenticity rooted in Asian values. It connects affected communities across South Asia through shared challenges and hope."

significant gap—providing a space to exchange lessons on local preparedness, early warning systems, and community adaptation to climate change.

I especially appreciate how it has highlighted emerging issues, such as the increasing threat of extreme heat, which makes outdoor work harder—especially for women in agriculture, transportation, and informal sectors. AIDMI's efforts to reduce heat stress and share practical solutions through this newsletter demonstrate the continued relevance and timeliness of its work. Few platforms have

managed to combine academic insights with grassroots experiences as effectively as Southasiadisasters.net. It has informed and inspired countless individuals, influencing policies that bolster resilience among vulnerable communities.

As it celebrates twenty years, I see Southasiadisasters.net as a flagship source of ideas and dialogue—a living record of how South Asia and its partners are learning, adapting, and building resilience together. I wish it continued success in the years to come. ■

Learning Together for Resilience: Reflections on Southasiadisasters.net

By A.R.P. Warnasooriya, Additional Director General, Department of Meteorology, Sri Lanka

Southasiadisasters.net is an important platform that shares knowledge and experiences on disaster risk reduction and resilience in South Asia. The region faces numerous natural hazards, including floods, cyclones, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes. With climate change making these events more frequent and intense, it is vital to have reliable information that helps communities, governments, and organisations prepare and respond better.

This platform plays a key role by collecting and publishing useful articles, case studies, and reports on disaster management. It highlights both challenges and solutions from different parts of South Asia, making the knowledge very practical and relevant. For example, it often showcases local community efforts, innovative practices, and lessons learned from past disasters. This helps others learn and apply similar approaches in their own contexts.

For Sri Lanka, *Southasiadisasters.net* is especially valuable. The country is highly vulnerable to climate-related

“Southasiadisasters.net empowers Sri Lanka to learn from regional experiences – turning shared challenges into shared solutions. It connects practitioners, policymakers, and communities across South Asia for collective resilience building.”

hazards, which are being intensified by climate change, such as floods, droughts, high winds, extreme heat, cyclones, and landslides. By accessing the shared experiences of neighbouring countries, Sri Lanka can learn new strategies for community-based disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and climate adaptation. The platform also highlights good practices on coastal management, livelihood protection, and risk-sensitive urban planning, which are highly relevant for Sri Lanka’s development needs. For example, insights into drought management, urban flood resilience, and ecosystem-based adaptation can

directly support Sri Lanka’s efforts to build resilience for vulnerable communities and critical sectors such as agriculture, water, and health.

Another strength of *Southasiadisasters.net* is that it brings together a diverse range of voices – experts, practitioners, policymakers, and community members. By doing so, it promotes the idea that disaster management is not just the responsibility of governments, but a shared task that needs cooperation from everyone.

The platform is also useful for students, young professionals, and civil society groups who want to understand disaster risk issues in the region.

Overall, *Southasiadisasters.net* is important because it connects people, ideas, and solutions across South Asia. For Sri Lanka, it provides access to a regional knowledge network that strengthens resilience and improves preparedness for future disasters. ■

“एक गाँव की सामान्य-सी कहानी जब Southasiadisasters.net में दर्ज होती है, तो वह पूरे क्षेत्र के लिए नीति-निर्माण का मार्गदर्शन बन जाती है। यही इसकी व्यापक प्रभावशीलता है।”

“What begins as a community story in one village becomes a policy lesson for an entire region. That’s the ripple effect Southasiadisasters.net creates.”

– Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, India

“क्षमता ही परिषदांमध्ये निर्माण होत नाही — ती समुदायांच्या दैनंदिन कृतीमधून आकार घेते. Southasiadisasters.net अशा कृतींचे दस्तऐवजीकरण करते, जे प्रेरणा देतात, माहिती पोहोचवतात आणि बदलाची ठिणगी पेटवतात.”

“Resilience is not built in conferences – it is built in the everyday actions of communities. Southasiadisasters.net documents those actions so they inspire, inform, and ignite change.”

– Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI, India

CLIMATE COLLABORATION

Connecting Research and Practice: Why Southasiadisasters.net Matters for Climate Adaptation

By Dr. Prerna Singh, Program Director, Climate Adaptation Learning Lab Transitions Research, India

At Transitions Research, our engagement with Southasiadisasters.net over the past two years has been a rich and rewarding experience. As the Program Director of the Climate Adaptation Learning Lab, I first encountered AIDMI's work through their participation in the Tracking, Learning and Sharing Symposium in Bangkok in 2024. Since then, Southasiadisasters.net has been an important space of learning and exchange for us: a platform that connects research, practice, and lived experience across South Asia.

What sets Southasiadisasters.net apart is the way it curates grounded

reflections from across the region, voices that rarely find space in more formal research or policy publications. It bridges disciplines and geographies, and in doing so, helps build a shared understanding of the challenges and innovations shaping disaster and climate resilience today.

Our collaboration with the publication began with the special issue "Harnessing Collective Knowledge: Advancing Adaptation Research and Action through Tracking, Learning and Sharing around Extreme Heat," which we had the opportunity to co-edit alongside AIDMI. That experience,

along with subsequent contributions to the thematic series on Nature-based Cooling Solutions for Cities and Heat as a Humanitarian Crisis, has reinforced our appreciation of the publication's ability to translate field experiences into accessible, actionable insights.

For practitioners, researchers, and communities alike, Southasiadisasters.net continues to serve as a vital platform, one that not only documents the evolving realities of climate and disaster resilience in South Asia, but also fosters collaboration and learning among those working to strengthen it. ■

KNOWLEDGE IN ACTION

Democratising Knowledge for a Fragile Planet: Why Southasiadisasters.net Matters

By Subir Dey (PhD, JNU), Assistant Professor in History, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, India

Southasiadisasters.net has been consistently at work for twenty-five years, gradually enhancing our awareness of our planetary existence. Every issue of the publication provides an interesting bouquet of writing from practitioners equally diverse in their training and specialisation. Every month, the newsletter presents a hope-inducing collection of actionable insights in humanity's effort to comprehend and respond to climate-induced risks and challenges – a subject that is so elusive to any lucid comprehension

or straightforward simplification. The most significant aspect of the newsletter's coverage is its emphasis on the local context and manifestation of this global challenge. Through its diverse contributions, the newsletter facilitates the cross-pollination of all kinds of ideas and initiatives, democratising knowledge for further endeavours.

From a contributor's point of view, Southasiadisaster.net plays a very crucial role. The platform compels

practitioners and researchers to communicate their expertise in plain speak. It provides the much-needed challenge to any esoteric form of knowledge to be democratised, effective in communication, but not short of depth. This is a very simple but hard path to walk on- the balance of theory and praxis. Southasiadisasters.net does it with grace and sensitivity, which is much needed in our dystopic times. ■

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Liberating Narratives of Southasiadisasters.net: Inspiring Women, Communities, and Change

By Dr. Shakuntala Pratihary, Centre for Research and Community Action (CeRCA), India

As natives of Odisha, we have been experiencing disasters every year in different forms, and this has impacted our personality so much that all our literature, cultural, and various forms of expressions get influenced by the narratives of disaster-related sufferings. As a researcher, I have been reading Southasiadisaster.net regularly, and it has been a truly liberating feeling to know that we can overcome this scenario and build community resilience to withstand the vagaries of these disasters. The impact of disasters on women and children has been devastating, and it affects the capabilities of women and girl children in the long run. The vast diversity of articles published on Southasiadisasters.net provides a

vivid description of the struggles and successes of local communities in overcoming the impact and building resilience through participatory methods, with a particular focus on women and children.

While reading these stories and articles, one actually gets the feeling that there is an option to escape from these situations, and this can be achieved by collectivising local communities. This has had a positive impact on me while pursuing my doctoral studies and has also shaped my career as an action researcher. These narratives have inspired me to work with women and the marginal communities to break their culture of silence and initiate social change at their own level. Various examples of

advocating with the government and other agencies have inspired us to initiate a similar process to bring evidence from the field to suggest progressive policy changes.

The published articles and literature inspire many of us to build a positive narrative around disaster risk reduction and have helped in collectivising local communities to find local solutions. The repository of articles from global experiences has truly promoted local initiatives and sparked many of us not only to conduct research but also to engage with communities to facilitate change.

I wish Southasiadisasters.net all the power and strength in the coming years. ■

KNOWLEDGE EMPOWERMENT

Experiencing Publishing in Southasiadisaster.net

By Dr. Shashi Ram, Ph.D. (Construction Technology & Management), Telangana, India

Publishing at the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) was a learning experience. I will cherish the confidence AIDMI has shown in me and in my collaborative work with AIDMI. I always look forward to more collaborative efforts to create public awareness through writing policy papers and policy framing for a disaster-resilient India.

AIDMI has given me the opportunity to publish a policy paper in AIDMI's

publication, Southasiadisaster.net, in its special issue "Urgency of Urban Heat Adaptation". Publishing an article titled "Heatwave Action Plan - Adaptation and Mitigation" was a stepping stone for me. Writing a policy paper for southasiadisaster.net has helped me to give my insight from a Construction Technology & Management perspective. I hope, and I wish that this collaborative effort of creating disaster awareness

through policy papers will serve the greater cause of making the population disaster prepared and create disaster resilience among the community, as well as to build a disaster-resilient infrastructure.

I would congratulate AIDMI for their successful completion of 225 issues of the Southasiadisaster.net in creating disaster awareness among the countries. Also, I am grateful to be a part of AIDMI's publication. ■

Where Knowledge Meets Care: Reflections on the Role of Southasiadisasters.net in Nurturing Resilience

By *Prajakta Pimpalshende*, a CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Maharashtra, India; *Shalini Dhyani*, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), Uttar Pradesh, India

We are truly grateful to the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) for inviting us to reflect on “Why Southasiadisasters.net is Important.” It is an honour to be part of a publication that, for two decades, has connected thousands of readers, writers, and practitioners across South Asia and beyond.

When our article, “Urban Growth and the Role of Nature-based Solutions in Shaping a Climate-Resilient Nagpur,” appeared in Issue 224, it felt like joining something bigger than a publication (Pimpalshende & Dhyani, 2025). The conceptual Model underpinning our work (as illustrated in Figure 1) clearly maps the link between development, ecosystem loss and rising urban risks and outlines the pathway to resilience through Nature-based Solutions (NbS). For us, *Southasiadisasters.net* was the ideal platform to translate this complex knowledge (the risk

framework) into insights (the NbS model) that empower policymakers and communities with informed care.

During writing, we realised how the publication brings together voices that are rarely heard in academic or policy spaces: street vendors, local officials, students, and scientists, all contributing their perspectives on resilience. *Southasiadisasters.net* is not just a research publication; it is a living record of how people in South Asia adapt, rebuild, and reimagine resilience. Its simplicity and sincerity make it stand out. Every issue reads like a dialogue, not a report.

We often refer to the publication in our research on climate adaptation to understand how local communities develop and apply their own adaptive practices. Its concise articles translate complex climate ideas into actionable insights. What we value most is the publication’s clarity and

warm tone—each article feels informed, meant to inspire real-world action.

As the publication celebrates its 225th issue, we see it as a collective diary of how South Asia has learned, adapted, and grown stronger in the face of disasters. It connects readers, researchers, and practitioners who believe that resilience grows from informed communities. We feel privileged to contribute to this journey and look forward to being part of its next decade.

Looking ahead, we hope to see more young contributors and city-level case studies, encouraging cross-learning and accessibility. Through this experience, we understood that resilience rarely begins within four walls; it often takes root in communities, where people and nature adapt together through small, consistent acts of care, whether it is

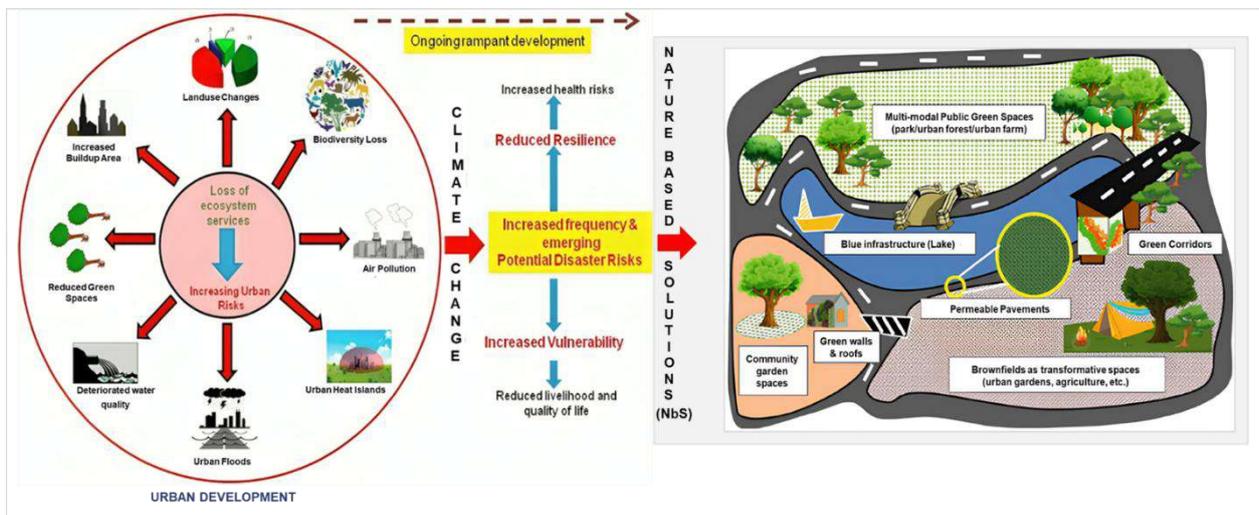


Figure 1: Integrating Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into urban planning to combat climate change impacts and disaster risks. (Dhyani et al., 2018, 2021)

care for the planet, for others, or for oneself. ■

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दोन दशकांचे ज्ञानसहकार्य: Southasiadisasters.net ची उल्लेखनीय कामगिरी

By AIDMI Team

2005 मध्ये सुरू झालेल्या Southasiadisasters.net या मासिकाने आपत्ती व्यवस्थापन, हवामान बदल अनुकूलन आणि स्थानिक ज्ञान सह-निर्मिती या क्षेत्रात महत्त्वाची भूमिका बजावली आहे. 2025 मध्ये 225 व्या विशेषांकापर्यंत या मासिकाने 2400 हून अधिक लेख प्रकाशित केले असून, ही एक अभूतपूर्व ज्ञानसंपदा आहे.

67 देशांतील 1889 लेखकांनी या मासिकात योगदान दिले आहे. यात नागरी संस्थांचे कार्यकर्ते, शास्त्रज्ञ, धोरणकर्ते, आणि स्थानिक समुदायांचे प्रतिनिधी यांचा समावेश आहे. Disaster Recovery, Urban Resilience, Climate Adaptation यांसारख्या पारंपरिक विषयांसोबतच Extreme Heat या उदयोन्मुख आणि महत्त्वाच्या विषयावरही मासिकाने विशेष लक्ष केंद्रित केले आहे.

2022 पासून मासिकाने "Heat as a Humanitarian Crisis", "Nature-Based Cooling Solutions", आणि "Heatwave Preparedness" यांसारख्या विशेषांकांतून तीव्र उष्णतेमुळे भेडसावणाऱ्या लहान व्यवसायांवर, महिला कामगारांवर, शाळकरी मुले, वृद्ध आणि अनौपचारिक क्षेत्रातील लोकांवर प्रकाश टाकला आहे. SEWA, AIDMI आणि स्थानिक संस्थांच्या अनुभवांवर आधारित या लेखांनी समुदाय-केंद्रित उपाय आणि धोरणांचा मार्ग दाखवला आहे. या विशेषांकांनी उष्णतेच्या संकटाला एक मानवी व सामाजिक दृष्टीकोन दिला आहे, जो आकड्यांच्या पलीकडे जातो.

या मासिकाने स्थानिक कथा, भागीदारी आणि नवकल्पना यांना महत्त्व देत जागतिक स्तरावर एक अनोखे स्थान निर्माण केले आहे. प्रत्येक लेख हा कृतीसाठी मार्गदर्शक ठरतो. हे केवळ ज्ञानवहनाचे साधन नसून, लवचिकतेचा, सहभागाचा आणि सहकार्याचा आदर्श मंच आहे.

पुढील टप्प्यात, अधिक भाषा, दृश्यरूप सादरीकरण, युवा लेखकांचा सहभाग आणि कृतीला प्रेरणा देणारे ज्ञान हे या मासिकाच्या प्रभावाला नवसंजीवनी देतील. ■

From Local Lessons to Regional Resilience: How Southasiadisasters.net Keeps Recovery Alive

By Manish Patel, AIDMI, India

“Southasiadisasters.net is a publication of the pluriverse – valuing many languages, many knowledges, and many ways of understanding risk.”

– JC Gaillard,
University of Auckland

Disasters do not respect borders – geographical, institutional, or disciplinary. Floods, heatwaves, cyclones, earthquakes, pandemics, and displacement spill across boundaries, exposing communities that are already living close to vulnerability. What protects recovery in such a world is not only resources or infrastructure, but learning – learning that is continuous, collective, and grounded in lived realities.

For twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has been that learning bridge. Since its first issue in 2005, the publication has documented more than **2,400 articles**, authored by **1,889 contributors across 67 countries**, covering themes from tsunami recovery to extreme heat, microinsurance, early warning, urban resilience, school safety, and

“Rather than anonymous ‘vulnerable groups’, Southasiadisasters.net considers the realities of risk for real people – school children, tram drivers, worshippers, and women farmers.”

– Paul Knox Clarke,
ADAPT Initiative

climate adaptation. It is one of the most sustained knowledge archives in the Global South, connecting practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and affected communities across boundaries.

Its records show that recovery strengthens when three things happen:

1. **Experiences are shared across regions.** Issues on Kashmir earthquake recovery (Issues 45, 48), Bihar floods (Issues 62, 75), Nepal’s reconstruction (Issue 134), and Sri Lankan preparedness (Issue 24) demonstrate how communities learn from each other’s struggles and solutions rather than starting from zero after each disaster.
2. **Policy listens to practice.** From India’s first SFDRR-aligned National Disaster Management Plan (Issue 148) to heatwave governance and parametric insurance (Issues 209, 218, 221), the publication has helped translate ground evidence into national frameworks – protecting recovery through better governance, inclusion, and foresight.
3. **Affected populations remain at the centre.** Across two decades, the voices of women farmers, small businesses, street vendors, schoolchildren, migrants, elderly citizens, coastal workers, and informal labourers appear consistently. Their recovery strategies – documented after tsunamis, cyclones, floods, COVID-19, and heatwaves (Issues 6, 45, 62, 200, 209) – have shaped

“Every disaster in life writes a painful chapter. Knowledge portals ensure those chapters become manuals for resilience, not forgotten stories.”

– Anoja Seneviratne,
Sri Lanka DMC

many of the region’s most relevant resilience models.

Recovery is Protected When Learning is Shared

Disasters without boundaries require knowledge without boundaries. *Southasiadisasters.net* has shown that recovery is not a one-time phase after impact – it is a continuous practice strengthened by:

- local leadership,
- community innovation,
- regional solidarity,
- timely evidence, and
- open, accessible knowledge.

As South Asia enters an era of extreme heat, climate extremes, and rapid urbanisation, the lessons preserved across Issues 1 to 224 form a living library for future recovery. They protect recovery by ensuring that no community has to face the next disaster alone, uninformed, or unheard. ■

“Disasters cross boundaries, but so does learning. Southasiadisasters.net was built on the belief that when communities share what they know, recovery becomes stronger, faster, and just for all.”

– Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI.

CAPACITY BUILDING AGENDA

Empowering People, Institutions, and Systems for Resilience Across Two Decades

“Capacity building is not just about training people – it is about transforming systems, sustaining local leadership, and ensuring that knowledge endures beyond projects.”

Over the past twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* – published by the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)** – has made capacity building the foundation of disaster risk reduction (DRR), humanitarian action, and climate resilience. Each of its 224 issues has served as a practical learning tool for practitioners, policymakers, teachers, and local governments across South Asia. From school safety and microinsurance to urban planning and early warning, the publication has consistently shown how knowledge sharing strengthens long-term resilience.

The first major capacity-building agenda was **institutionalising DRR within development systems**. *Issue 148* (2016), *“First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan,”* highlighted how India integrated capacity development into disaster planning, with AIDMI’s training models influencing both state and district-level disaster authorities.

The second focused on **building heat resilience skills and local leadership**. *Issue 209* (2024), *“Urgency of Heatwave Risk Management,”* shared field-based learning from Ahmedabad and Nagpur, documenting how city staff, health workers, and small business owners were trained to respond to rising heat risks through Heat Action Plans.

The third agenda strengthened **Panchayats and local governments**. *Issue 200* (2022), *“Reaching the Last Citizen in the Pandemic,”* demonstrated how capacity building among Panchayats during COVID-19 improved preparedness and

community coordination. These experiences have since informed decentralised DRR planning in several states.

The fourth area advanced **school safety and DRR education**. *Issue 49* (2008), *“School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction,”* presented AIDMI’s training for teachers and students, influencing the NDMA’s School Safety Guidelines and embedding risk education in curricula.

The fifth agenda promoted **financial resilience through microinsurance and climate finance**. *Issue 133* (2015), *“Disaster Microinsurance,”* documented AIDMI’s training sessions with small businesses and informal workers to strengthen their understanding of insurance and financial risk protection.

The sixth theme built **humanitarian leadership and recovery skills**. *Issue 134* (2015), *“Rebuilding Nepal by Implementing SFDRR,”* captured training of volunteers and community organisations on coordination, accountability, and recovery planning after the Nepal earthquake.

The seventh agenda focused on **urban resilience capacity among city managers and planners**. *Issue 114* (2014), *“Towards Urban Resilience,”* described AIDMI’s urban training programs that developed technical skills in risk mapping, resilient infrastructure, and urban DRR planning in cities such as Ahmedabad and Guwahati.

The eighth theme strengthened **women’s organisations and**

leadership in climate adaptation. *Issue 197* (2022), *“Learning Intersectionality of Women-Led Disaster Preparedness,”* featured SEWA’s capacity-building model for women vendors and farmers, linking adaptation skills with livelihood security and local decision-making.

The ninth area addressed **anticipatory action and early warning systems**. *Issue 221* (2025), *“Celebrating 150 Years of IMD,”* showcased collaborative efforts between IMD, NDMA, and local agencies to train communities and officials in multi-hazard early warning and anticipatory response.

Finally, the tenth agenda advanced **localising global frameworks through learning and practice**. *Issue 215* (2025), *“Climate Extremes: Pathways for Preparedness,”* demonstrated how AIDMI’s capacity-building approaches linked local learning with international agendas such as Sendai, Paris, and COP30.

Across twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has shown that capacity building is not a one-time intervention but a process of empowerment that begins with awareness, deepens through practice, and sustains through institutions. Its issues have been used in universities, government programs, and civil society trainings across South Asia, turning learning into leadership. As India moves toward 2030, the publication stands as a testament that **knowledge, when shared and applied, is the most enduring foundation of resilience.**

From Field Experiments to Scalable Resilience Models in India and South Asia

“Pilots are where learning begins, and demonstrations are where learning becomes action. Southasiadisasters.net has been both the record and the roadmap for scaling resilience.”

For twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net*—the flagship publication of the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)**—has documented how small, field-tested innovations become national and regional models. Each pilot featured in its pages shows how ideas tested at the local level can transform humanitarian practice, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and climate resilience policy. From post-tsunami reconstruction to urban cooling, the publication has chronicled two decades of experimentation that bridged science, governance, and community leadership.

The first major innovation was **Afat Vimo**, India’s first disaster micro-insurance pilot. *Issue 133* (2015), “*Disaster Microinsurance: An Innovation for Transformation*,” traced how this post-earthquake initiative protected informal workers and small businesses and inspired later parametric insurance pilots for heat risk.

The second was the **Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan (HAP)**. *Issue 132* (2015), “*Local Level Planning to Cope with Heat Waves in India*,” documented how AIDMI, AMC, and IMD co-created the world’s first city-level heat plan. This model, combining early warning, communication, and health preparedness, has since been replicated in more than twenty Indian cities.

Third came **District Disaster Management Planning pilots** in Assam and Sikkim. *Issues 86* (2012)

and *115* (2014) showed how participatory district planning strengthened governance and inclusion in hazard-prone areas, later shaping national DDMP guidelines.

Fourth, **School Safety and Education Resilience demonstrations** captured in *Issue 49* (2008) proved that disaster drills, classroom training, and safety audits could reduce risk for children. These pilots informed NDMA’s School Safety Policy 2016.

Fifth were **Urban Resilience and City Action Planning pilots**, featured in *Issue 114* (2014), which trained city managers in resilient infrastructure, land-use planning, and local adaptation—concepts that later influenced India’s Smart Cities Mission.

The sixth innovation, a **Community-Based Flood Early Warning System** in Assam, appeared in *Issue 183* (2019). Using low-cost sensors and mobile alerts, it showed how technology and local institutions can save lives in remote areas.

Seventh, **Humanitarian Accountability and Localisation pilots** reported in *Issue 76* (2011) tested Sphere and HAP standards in Odisha and Gujarat. They established community feedback systems long before localisation became a global humanitarian priority.

Eighth, **Women-Led Climate and Disaster Resilience pilots**, highlighted in *Issue 197* (2022), chronicled AIDMI’s partnership with SEWA in Gujarat, Bihar, and

Rajasthan, where women organised for heat preparedness, flood management, and livelihood recovery.

Ninth, **Nature-Based Cooling Solutions for Cities**, featured in *Issue 224* (2025), demonstrated green corridors, reflective surfaces, and water-sensitive design in Ahmedabad and Kochi—linking local adaptation to IUCN’s global NbS agenda.

Finally, *Issue 215* (2025), “*Climate Extremes: Pathways for Preparedness and Anticipatory Action*,” showcased **Forecast-Based Financing pilots** in Gujarat and Odisha. These introduced pre-arranged funds and community triggers for heat and flood response, aligning with the UN’s Early Warning for All initiative.

Across these ten examples, *Southasiadisasters.net* has shown how pilots move from innovation to institution. Each demonstration—whether in school safety, micro-insurance, or urban heat adaptation—turned evidence into policy and practice. AIDMI’s participatory approach, combining data, training, and community ownership, ensured that small pilots yielded national impact.

As India and South Asia advance toward 2030, these experiments remain living laboratories of resilience—proving that innovation thrives when it is **local, inclusive, and documented for others to learn from.** ■

Assessing Progress, Learning from Practice, and Strengthening Resilience Systems

“Evaluation is not about looking back – it is about looking ahead with a better understanding. Southasiadisasters.net has turned every assessment into a lesson for the future.”

Over the last twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* – produced by the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)** – has emerged as South Asia’s most enduring platform for reflection, evaluation, and learning in disaster management and climate resilience. Beyond reporting events, the publication has acted as a review mechanism – turning local experiences into evidence-based insights that strengthen systems and accountability. Each evaluation featured in its pages has not only measured progress but guided reform across policies, institutions, and programs.

The first major review came through **post-tsunami recovery evaluations** in *Issues 6 (2005)* and *56 (2009)*, which assessed gender equity, inclusion, and community participation in reconstruction efforts in India and Sri Lanka. The lessons shaped gender-sensitive recovery frameworks for future disasters.

Next, the publication’s **review of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)** in *Issues 32 (2007)* and *53 (2008)* captured India’s early steps in institutionalising DRR through the creation of NDMA and state disaster authorities – offering one of the first independent civil society assessments of HFA progress in South Asia.

The third evaluation, **on NGO and civil society roles in disaster management**, appeared in *Issue 21 (2006)*. It called for greater coordination and accountability among humanitarian actors, paving

the way for more localised and transparent response systems.

The fourth review focused on **school safety and education-based DRR programmes**. *Issue 49 (2008)*, “*School-Based DRR: Lessons for South Asia*,” evaluated implementation challenges and successes of DRR education, later informing NDMA’s 2016 School Safety Policy.

A fifth evaluation assessed **long-term recovery after the 2005 Kashmir earthquake**, featured in *Issue 48 (2008)*. It documented community perspectives on livelihood recovery, social inclusion, and reconstruction – a rare longitudinal review that tracked resilience over several years.

The sixth major evaluation examined **India’s first SFDRR-aligned National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)** in *Issue 148 (2016)*. It critically analysed policy alignment with Sendai’s priorities and identified gaps in financing, local action, and monitoring.

The seventh review covered **humanitarian accountability practices**, captured in *Issue 76 (2011)*, “*Humanitarian Accountability Standard*.” It assessed the application of Sphere and HAP standards among Indian NGOs, helping institutionalise community feedback systems in humanitarian programming.

The eighth evaluation focused on **heatwave risk management and early warning systems** through *Issues 209 (2024)* and *214 (2024)*. These comprehensive reviews

assessed India’s expanding heat resilience initiatives, highlighting the importance of monitoring local implementation and communication effectiveness.

The ninth review addressed **pandemic preparedness and local governance** in *Issues 200 (2022)* and *203 (2022)*. These examined COVID-19 governance and last-mile delivery, positioning Panchayats and women’s groups as essential actors in community resilience.

Finally, *Issue 224 (2025)* presented an **evaluation of nature-based cooling and urban climate solutions** in Ahmedabad and Kochi, linking pilot outcomes to global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and Global Goal on Adaptation.

Across these ten evaluations, *Southasiadisasters.net* has demonstrated that accountability and learning are central to resilience. By documenting what worked, what failed, and why, it has helped shape national policies, city action plans, and NGO practices.

Through AIDMI’s “**evaluate to evolve**” approach, the publication has transformed reflection into reform – showing that disaster management and climate resilience advance not only through projects but through continuous learning. As *Southasiadisasters.net* enters its third decade, it remains South Asia’s most trusted space for **evidence, evaluation, and evolution** in the pursuit of a safer, more resilient future. ■

Bridging Research, Practice, and Policy through Two Decades of Knowledge Sharing

“Southasiadisasters.net has not only reported on disasters – it has shaped the study of them, connecting academic thought with community experience.”

Over the past twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* – published by the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)** – has become a trusted bridge between research and action. Its 224 issues have connected universities, think tanks, and practitioners across India and South Asia, helping shape the evolving disciplines of disaster risk reduction (DRR), humanitarian action, and climate resilience. The publication has consistently transformed academic theory into applied learning, showing how research can inform practice and how practice can inspire new fields of inquiry.

The first major academic contribution came through **linking DRR to development studies**. *Issue 11* (2006), *“Making Decisions Better and Safer,”* drew on academic research on integrating DRR into public policy, aligning with early UNDP and IIPA studies that advocated risk-sensitive development planning.

The second area, **microinsurance and disaster economics**, featured prominently in *Issues 43* (2008) and *133* (2015). Drawing on global research by scholars like Craig Churchill and Stephan Dercon, these issues demonstrated how insurance and financial protection strengthen community resilience – linking theory to real-world experiments like AIDMI’s *Afat Vimo* microinsurance pilot.

The third focus, **climate change adaptation and environmental studies**, appeared in *Issues 51* (2008) and *145* (2016), which connected the IPCC’s global climate research with

local adaptation lessons from India and South Asia. These issues became references for climate policy and environmental management courses.

Fourth, the publication advanced **urban resilience and planning research**. *Issues 114* (2014) and *169* (2018) presented academic case studies from CEPT University and IITs on urban risk mapping, resilience audits, and planning for uncertainty – shaping university curricula on sustainable cities and DRR.

The fifth academic stream explored **humanitarian ethics and accountability**. *Issue 76* (2011), *“Humanitarian Accountability Standard,”* brought academic debates from the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and Sphere Project into India’s NGO sector, introducing new benchmarks for transparency and participatory practice.

The sixth theme, **gender, intersectionality, and resilience**, was captured in *Issue 197* (2022), *“Learning Intersectionality of Women-Led Disaster Preparedness and Resilience.”* Drawing from SEWA’s experience and feminist scholarship, it bridged academic theory with grassroots leadership models in DRR and climate adaptation.

The seventh, **education and school safety research**, appeared in *Issue 49* (2008), which synthesised UNICEF and UNISDR frameworks with field data from India and Sri Lanka. It demonstrated how risk education could protect children and reform school infrastructure policies.

Issue 148 (2016), *“First SFDRR Aligned National Disaster Management Plan,”* became a key text in **disaster governance and policy evaluation**, applying comparative policy analysis to India’s evolving DRR framework.

Issues 84 (2012) and *154* (2016) advanced **community-based adaptation (CBA) and participatory research**, showcasing how co-produced data and local knowledge enrich scientific understanding – connecting academic methodology to social empowerment.

Finally, *Issue 215* (2025), *“Climate Extremes: Pathways for Preparedness and Anticipatory Action,”* explored **forecast-based financing and data science in DRR**, merging predictive analytics with humanitarian decision-making and anticipatory governance – an emerging research frontier.

Across these ten themes, *Southasiadisasters.net* has evolved from a practitioner’s platform into an interdisciplinary academic resource. Its issues are now used as readings in universities, cited in research papers, and integrated into professional training across Asia.

AIDMI’s vision through the publication is clear: **research must inform resilience, and resilience must enrich research**. By blending academic rigor with local insight, *Southasiadisasters.net* has created a living curriculum on disaster and climate resilience – one that continues to educate and inspire new generations of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers across South Asia and beyond. ■

Voices, Vulnerabilities, and Victories from the Frontlines of Risk

“Resilience is not built in offices – it begins with people who face disasters every day and still find ways to recover, rebuild, and reimagine their future.”

For two decades, *Southasiadisasters.net* – the flagship publication of the **All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)** – has placed affected populations at the heart of the resilience conversation. Its 224 issues have documented how ordinary people across South Asia – farmers, workers, students, migrants, and women leaders – confront and adapt to disasters and climate stress. From the tsunami of 2004 to the heatwaves of the 2020s, the publication has chronicled not only recovery but renewal, proving that resilience begins with those most affected.

The first example, **Tsunami Recovery (2005–2008)**, in *Issues 6* (2005) and *56* (2009), captured stories of fishing families, women’s cooperatives, and local leaders in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. It highlighted how gender inclusion and community organisation accelerated post-tsunami recovery.

Second, **Earthquake-Affected Families in Kashmir (2008–2012)**, featured in *Issue 48* (2008), showed how survivors rebuilt livelihoods and housing while restoring social networks after the 2005 earthquake – revealing that long-term recovery depends as much on trust and inclusion as on infrastructure.

Third, **Flood-Affected Farmers in Bihar (2007–2009)**, covered in *Issue 62* (2009), presented farmers and traders who rebuilt through microcredit, grain banks, and self-help networks, illustrating that local finance and

livelihood recovery underpin true resilience.

Fourth, **Informal Workers and Small Businesses (2013–2018)**, documented in *Issues 133* (2015) and *154* (2016), shared how AIDMI’s *Afat Vimo* microinsurance helped street vendors and artisans recover from floods and cyclones. These stories showed that financial protection is a survival strategy for vulnerable livelihoods.

Fifth, **Women and Urban Workers Facing Heat Stress (2018–2024)**, captured in *Issues 209* (2024) and *212* (2024), featured street vendors, sanitation workers, and construction labourers in Ahmedabad and Nagpur. Their lived experiences shaped India’s early parametric heat insurance pilots and heat action planning.

Sixth, **Schoolchildren and Teachers in Risk Zones (2008–2015)**, highlighted in *Issue 49* (2008), showcased how children became agents of safety through DRR education and school reconstruction, leading to NDMA’s School Safety Guidelines (2016).

Seventh, **Pandemic-Affected Rural Families and Migrant Workers (2020–2022)**, in *Issues 200* and *203*, presented stories of loss and recovery during COVID-19. Panchayats and women’s self-help groups emerged as lifelines for food security and care in India’s villages.

Eighth, **Coastal Fisherfolk and Salt Workers (2018–2025)**, shared in *Issue 223* (2025), documented communities

adapting to salinity, cyclones, and heat through indigenous methods and cooperative innovation – merging local wisdom with science.

Ninth, **Women Farmers and Youth in Agriculture (2023–2025)**, in *Issue 219* (2025), highlighted youth and women-led innovations in crop adaptation and water management, offering hope for a new generation of climate-aware farmers.

Finally, **Urban Vendors and Commuters Creating Cooling Solutions (2025)**, featured in *Issue 224* (2025), illustrated how everyday citizens co-designed green shelters, reflective roofs, and water points in Ahmedabad and Kochi, showcasing locally driven climate adaptation.

Across these ten examples, *Southasiadisasters.net* has transformed individual struggles into collective learning. By capturing real stories from affected communities, the publication has redefined how resilience is studied and practiced – placing people, not policies, at the centre.

Through AIDMI’s grounded work and partnerships, each issue has connected voices from disaster-affected populations to national and global frameworks, ensuring that lived experience informs humanitarian, DRR, and climate agendas. Over twenty years, *Southasiadisasters.net* has moved beyond documentation to empowerment – turning stories of suffering into strategies for survival and solidarity across South Asia. ■

20 Years of Learning, Together



2022 SOHS Reflections for Utilisation: Dean of Social Science, Provost Open University, Director AIDMI, Minister for Disaster Management, Professor of UCL, and VC of Dhaka University share the SOHS utilisation report at the GRRIPP Conference, Dhaka. AIDMI shares the SOHS utilisation report with the Bangladesh Minister for Disaster Mitigation on September 18, 2023, encouraging the leveraging of local finance for gender, intersectionality, and extreme heat and floods resilience at the GRRIPP Conference by Dhaka University.



AIDMI's publication of Southasiadisasters.net on 'Asian Early Warning Systems' Launched at AMCDRR 2018 Side Event on Trans-Border Flood Early Warning System for Last Mile Connectivity, July 4, 2018 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



AIDMI's publication of Southasiadisasters.net on 'Towards AMCDRR 2018: Ulaanbaatar' was released at AMCDRR 2018, session on Making Schools Safer in Asia, July 5, 2018, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

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The views expressed in this issue are those of the respective authors of each article.

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