

2015 RISK Award

Self-assessment and planning (SAP)

Edited by Christian Barthelt
and Thomas Loster



Overview – RISK Award
Community self-assessment and
planning with women’s
participation for disaster risk

All the key drivers of risk are present in the Indian city of Pune: natural hazards, rapid urbanisation, demographic changes and poverty in many regions of the city. The All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG) won the 2015 RISK Award, endowed with €100,000. Their aim is to improve the disaster preparedness in the city and beyond.

Project management
RISK Award
Munich Re Foundation
Christian Barthelt
and Thomas Loster

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Editorial

“Namaste” roughly translates as “I bow to you”. This is the greeting used in India to show respect to the person you are talking to. So Munich Re Foundation takes this opportunity to say “Namaste” to our project partners from the All India Institute of Local Self-Government in Pune.

In 2015, the Institute won the third RISK Award and has achieved remarkable progress within two years. It had applied in 2015 with the goal of making at least ten slum districts in Pune safer during natural disasters and preparing them to cope with other risks as well. Self-help groups with a focus on children and women were therefore established to provide special training courses for these groups. The people who participated became first aiders, evacuation officers and logistics coordinators in risk situations.

Today, a little more than two years later, we have achieved much more: the team has worked with and provided training courses in 20 slum communities, 16 tribal hamlets, 17 rural villages and 24 communities of Denotified Nomadic Tribes – DNTs. A network of 1,500 young people was also established, who participate in disaster risk management training courses. They will be the agents of change in the future and will be able to ensure that life is safer.

The project was especially important to us because it represents a perfect marriage between the foundation’s motto “From Knowledge to Action” and our target group, which is “people at risk”. We are very pleased that our partner AILSG has made such an impact and achieved a high level of visibility over the two years. We are also pleased that it was able to use our start-up financing to steadily expand the project. The institute is now in a position to continue its work with local partners.

On the following pages, you can read more about our 2015 RISK Award project “Self-Assessment and Planning”. How people learn to assess themselves and their risk knowledge – and achieve better levels of prevention as well.

Christian Barthelt

Christian Barthelt
Munich Re Foundation

Dhage Deepa looks over the Janata Vasahat slum on the Parvati Hills. It is located on a steep slope. Each monsoon season triggers grave landslides that sweep whole houses away.



Sendai 2015 – Awarding Ceremony

The application phase for the third RISK Award ended on 1 November 2014. We received 145 applications – twice as many as for the second RISK Award in 2013. The applications reached us from no less than 60 countries.

Organisations from all areas of disaster management had been invited to submit project proposals dealing with the subject of “Disaster risk reduction – people-centred, sustainable and innovative”.

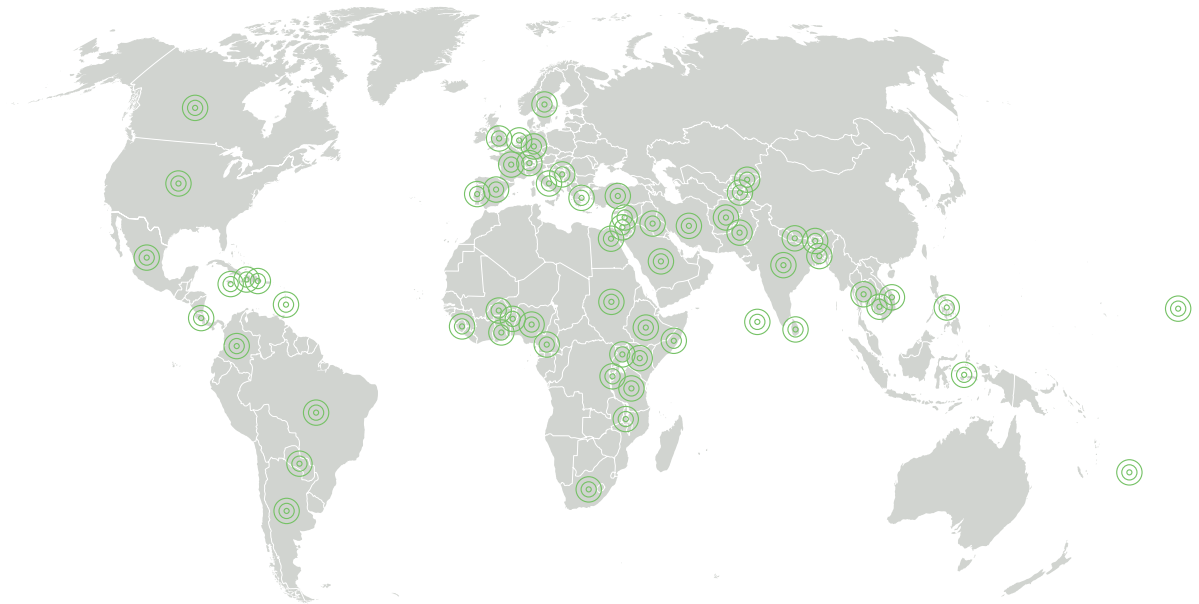
The RISK Award 2015 on this subject included prize money of €100,000 and was bestowed at the UN “Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction” in Sendai in March 2015.

The applications included 19 applications from science and academia, and 19 from governmental representatives and public authorities. 99 project proposals were from non-profit organisations or NGOs.

The origins of the applicants are also interesting. Asia including Arabia with 64 applications was the strongest group, followed by Africa with 38, Europe with 18, Latin America with 17, and North America with 6. Australia/Oceania sent 2 applications.

The RISK Award was presented at the World Conference on DRR in Sendai, where over 6,500 participants analysed ways to improve disaster prevention. The outcome of this groundbreaking conference is known around the world today as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Our project partner UNISDR provided us here with the appropriate platform for the 2015 RISK Award.

Countries represented in the 2015 RISK Award



Shweta Gupta, Executive Director of AILSG, received the trophy for the 2015 RISK Award on behalf of her team in March 2015 during the World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, hosted by the UNISDR.





Children of the Janata Vasahat Slum in Pune closely follow a theatre street play about risks and how to prevent disasters. Public events are of high importance in the project to create visibility.

“Let’s get started” — Interview with Shweta Gupta

May 2015



Shweta Gupta is an architect by training but soon found her life's calling by helping children and women in precarious situations. Today she is Executive Director within the All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AILSG) and manages the RISK-Award project. When starting with the project, we asked her a couple of questions.

Shweta, you won the 2015 RISK Award, what does this mean for you and the project?

The RISK Award is a great motivation for us as a team and for the people we represent. Now we can implement our project and build resilience for slum dwellers. We think we can serve some 25,000 people from ten slums in Pune in phase one.

What will be the next steps?

We will work closely with the vulnerable poor from the very beginning. We will teach them how to assess their own situation in relation to risks and natural hazards. We will try to include as many women and children because they are the most vulnerable in our poor areas.

What about the men?

Men are very active in India, they often take the stage anyways. Women spend most of the time in their homes, they are not involved enough in decisions, planning and in taking action. That's why we need to reach them and encourage them.

What is the role of children in the project?

Children are our future generation. Very young children often cannot read but as a rule they are very receptive. We start with street plays to gain their attention. We then use pictorial tools, which they understand and usually like a lot. Finally, we conduct mock drills to train them how to react, for example in the case of a fire or building collapse.

What about natural hazards?

We have different kinds of hazards and critical ones especially during the time of the monsoon. Our slums are often located at hills or very close to riverbeds. In case of heavy rain the slopes get instable or the rivers flood the area. We must prepare those who live there and are usually in their homes.

What are key elements of your project and how do you ensure sustainability?

There are two important elements. First of all we train the people how to perform self-assessments. The people get aware about their situation and build capacity. Then we train trainers and carefully hand the project over to the community. The vulnerable groups create Slum Disaster Management Committees with so-called master trainers. Our women often serve as volunteers in these teams. They are proud to play an important role and they care. This creates a lot of ownership which is the basis for sustainability.

Where do you see the project in two years' time?

We now immediately start in two slums. Our plan is to have disaster management plans for them in year one. Then we will take the model, upscale and multiply it in other slum areas in Pune. After two years we will hopefully have reached ten slums in the city. We will be having community engagement and planning skills. The people will be ready to design disaster management schemes. This is what we are striving for.

Will your project only work in Pune or India?

No, not at all. The layout of our approach and program is international and can be used everywhere. Our programme can serve some 65 million slum dwellers in India alone and we are sure that the model will suit more than 800 million slum dwellers in poor regions all around the globe. I know that we will be having a lot of work - but with the RISK Award we can now start our mission.

Activities for risk reduction must integrate the people at risk and make use of their traditional coping techniques and knowledge. The 2015 RISK Award honoured and funded an innovative and sustainable project of the *All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIILSG)*.

Self-assessment and planning to improve disaster risk reduction

Pune city in Maharashtra State of India is among the most multi-hazard-prone districts in the country. For the poorest of the poor the risks increase exponentially as they have hardly any means and resources for disaster risk reduction or disaster preparedness. Approximately 21% of Pune's population (690,000 people) resides in the city's 477 slums in uninhabitable conditions. Many of those slums are densely populated, lack basic services and infrastructure and, moreover, are located on hills as well as in high flood zones. Consequently, people are highly vulnerable to natural disasters (landslides, floods, heavy rains, earthquakes or cyclones) and man-made disasters (like fires and collapsing buildings). Women and children are among the weakest and most heavily affected.

More than 470 slums exist in Pune. Some of them are officially registered, the majority consists of informal housing and settlements.

With its project "Community self-assessment and planning with women's participation for disaster risk" the AIILSG from India aimed to reduce the disaster risk of the urban vulnerable communities in slums with a special focus on children and women. The project involves a very innovative approach: the people in the poor areas – men, women and children, including the illiterate – are taught to assess their own capacities to manage risks. And to identify gaps.

Measures were planned in four areas:

- Empowering the vulnerable slum communities from urban areas to assess their own disaster preparedness and plan disaster risk reduction.
- Mobilising proactive participation of women who are among the most vulnerable to disaster impacts.
- Developing a cadre of community volunteers as master trainers.
- Developing child-friendly information, education and communication including visual tools.

Thus, the project planned to address all three aspects in regards to sustainable disaster risk reduction:

- 1) disaster risk identification and assessment,
- 2) preparedness for effective response and
- 3) knowledge management and education.

Originally it was planned to reach 25,000 residents from more than ten slums in the city of Pune as beneficiaries. Lakhasmi Koli, a targeted beneficiary from the Mahatma Gandhi Slum says: "We are not fully aware about disaster risks and their mitigation and preparedness. This project will be very crucial as it will build our capacities and community resilience."



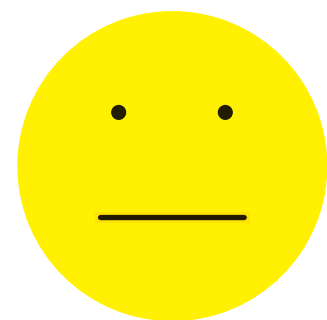
Self-dependent risk analysis — Risk self-assessment goes digital

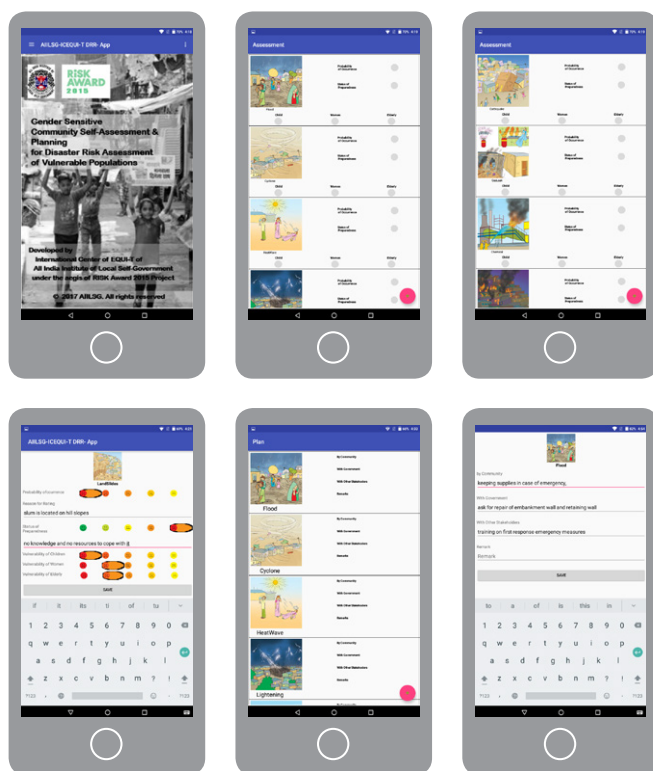


Every disaster risk reduction project starts with an intense analysis of the people at risk. Several approaches exist to collect data and to develop strategies, based on this data. A common method is face-to-face interviews with the target group. A problem is that only a small number of people can be reached. Another approach is questionnaires. If drafted comprehensibly, one can reach a lot more interested people. However, a hurdle which many NGOs working with poor communities in the developing context face is illiteracy. Those who are most at risk often have no chance to explain their risks to the project owners in a written way and their voices are unheard.

To overcome this situation, AILSG has developed an innovative instrument for risk analysis that allows the community authorities in the slums to take independent action – extremely effectively, even without scientific backgrounds. Instead of using complicated questionnaires reflecting the diverse disaster scenarios, self-explanatory pictograms and a sign language have been developed on the basis of emoticons. Smileys are self-explanatory for everyone and different smileys are used to indicate the quality of e.g. knowledge or management capacity. The slum residents now have a simple method to assess their situation on their own and to inform the project partners accordingly, even though they might not be able to write or read. The instrument is called “Self-Assessment and Planning Tool (SAP Tool)”. It will not only be used in the RISK Award project areas but also for medium-term risk analysis in many of India’s slums and beyond.

Prof. Mukesh Kanaskar, Deputy Director General, AILSG, explains how the risk analysis brochures work. Instead of questionnaires, easy-to-understand pictures and emoticons help to assess the specific risk situations.





Self-assessment and planning (SAP) goes digital

The SAP tool was used very successfully in the project areas and was constantly refined over a period of two years. The pictograms are now available as small, stable blocks, allowing surveys to be carried out even in monsoon periods, heavy rain, or other adverse weather conditions. Collecting the recorded data was labour-intensive. For that reason, AILSG looked for solutions that would make the process more efficient. The solution it came up with is in the field of mobile communications technology. Even in slums in India, more than 80% of the households have access to mobile phones. This opens up a unique point of access. The pictograms and non-written questionnaires were packaged in an app that is available free of charge from AILSG. This made it even easier for the communities to collect, save, and most importantly, to compare risk analysis data. Risk monitoring suddenly became the buzzword in the slums. Before the start of the project, that was something no one could have envisaged.

Networking with other RISK Award winners adding value

Sharada Barakoti works for the Nursing Association of Nepal (NAN), the organization that won the 2017 RISK Award. Her project called EpiNurse aims to improve health monitoring for people in need: in impoverished areas, refugee and natural disaster zones, and in extremely remote mountain regions. EpiNurse, too, has developed a mobile phone app and an online platform for the nurses responsible. Sharada was invited to attend a conference in Pune, the official closing seminar of the 2015 RISK Award. What she found particularly exciting was that the Indian project has now refined and packaged into an app a key component of her work in Nepal, namely the self-assessment and planning tool (SAP). People responsible at local level can now ask about risk situations more efficiently, carry out statistical evaluations, and make comparisons. Sharada pointed out: "I can see clear synergies. We can learn so much from each other."



Nurse Sharada records young patients' data. Modern information and communication technologies play a crucial role in the health monitoring project in Nepal, which won the 2017 RISK Award.

Women's self-help groups strengthen the community

Women are fully integrated from the start

Analyses carried out by the United Nations show that women and children are disproportionately impacted by disasters. The reasons are many and varied. They often have less access to education, go to work or take care of the household. Consequently they are sometimes less mobile than men. Women are often underrepresented in the risk planning measures of the communities and committees. The 2015 RISK Award project aimed to change this and explicitly integrated women into the measures from the very start. In self-help groups they learn how to prepare for different risks.

This can include simple things such as safe handling of gas canisters, the use of a fire-extinguisher or participation in first aid courses. The measures also extend to complex evacuation drills in the event of a landslide or earthquake. It is important to gradually transfer responsibility to the women and that they can independently qualify other women in the slums to become trainers. "This not only strengthens the resilience of the entire community but also the status of the women themselves", emphasises Shweta Gupta (AILLSG).

The slums in Pune have been divided into sections by straight lanes. Each of these lanes consists of roughly 20 to 40 households housing approximately five people respectively. For each lane in the project area, up to three women were appointed to take responsibility for a well-equipped first-aid package, hang up posters with emergency numbers in the community area, and organise further training measures.

As well as soft skills, Prof. Kanaskar and his project team provide technology and equipment to protect against risks. The pack includes fire extinguishers, life vests, safety ropes, a comprehensive emergency kit, gauze bandages and much more. The objective is to ensure that there is an adequate number of people in each community who know how the items should be used in an emergency, and who can pass on their knowledge to others.

Women are the fundament for the project's progress. In special trainings, they learn how to react before, during and after disasters and become not only first aiders, but also trainers themselves.



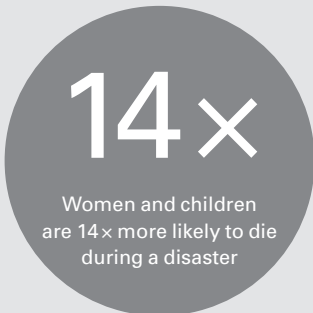
Gender equality

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the UN aim at reducing gender inequalities (goal 5) in order to guarantee fair, free and healthy living conditions for all humans. This is urgently needed since a global study by the UNDP has shown that different aspects of inequality cumulate to greater risks.



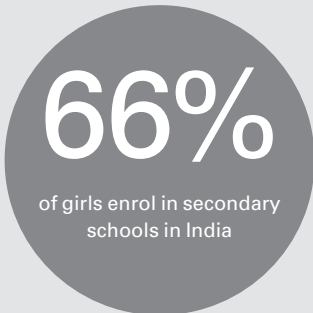
Illiteracy

The capacity to read and write is the fundament for solid education. Without education many doors for an individual's successful future will stay closed forever.



Disaster risk

The UNDP study found out that women and children are especially affected by disasters. A lack of education, less mobility and less access to risk reduction tools are just a few of the causing drivers.



Secondary school enrolment

Risk awareness trainings, education about climate change and its environmental and livelihood-related impacts are often available from secondary schools onwards. Since only two thirds of Indian girls enrol in secondary schools, one third does not have proper access to relevant information.



In the course of the RISK Award project, the pupils learn in a playful way what kinds of risk exist and how they can prepare. If they perform well they receive a certificate which they proudly present.



Children are the key

When disaster risk reduction is at stake, we must think in long-term categories to ensure sustainable success. It is not enough to conduct one training exercise, such as an evacuation drill, and then believe that everything is safe and well, and that people are prepared. Following the correct and efficient procedures in a dangerous situation must become an automatic response. This is the only way to save as many people as possible when disaster strikes.

There is almost no age restriction when it comes to raising risk awareness and increasing safe living conditions. When starting with the youngest, one has to adapt the methods, but not the messages.

As a result, ALLSG is making every effort to begin training as early as possible. Even primary school children are being informed and trained. Different kinds of media are used to make classes interesting and playful. Street plays are one possibility, along with puppet shows, drawing competitions and drills in the community centres. At first glance, the training measures appear to be a bundle of fun for the children. However, they are also a playful method of bringing the messages across successfully and enduringly. If the children go home to their parents and see, for example, that a gas canister is not stored correctly, that an uninsulated cable runs next to a water tap, or that hazardous waste is simply being disposed of, they raise voices of warning in their own homes.

The children had the last word at the closing seminar of the 2015 RISK Award in Mumbai in November 2017: They reported to an audience of 120 people on how they are working in their districts. Everyone listening was astonished at the responsibilities these youngsters are taking on at the ages of just 10 or 12. And they also related how this work has helped them grow in self-confidence. "Two years ago, no one knew me outside my street in the Janata Vasahat slum in Pune," said one. "Today I'm standing here talking to an international audience of 120 people. It's just awesome!"



Combining fun and soundness

Successful ways to reach the children often have to do with music, theatre plays, puppet shows and interactive lessons. Pupils are proud when they can take up specific roles in their community to increase security, e.g. as youth first aiders.

Children are central to risk reduction



Upscaling the project — The slums in Pune were just the beginning



Pune has more than 447 slums with several thousand residents. Each! Approximately one fifth of Pune's residents live on or below the poverty threshold. The RISK Award project was launched in ten slums with the aim of making them safer against disasters. In the long term, beyond the RISK Award pilot phase, the measures are to be extended to include all of Pune. The potential is tremendous.

In addition to this, AILSG wanted to examine whether their SAP tool and the formation of self-help task forces also make sense in semi-urban and rural areas. The organisation has chosen the small town of Medha in the Satara district as the target region. Earthquakes, landslides, droughts, spring tides and flooding form a dangerous mix in this area. Today they are an integral part of the DRR concept of the AILSG. The SAP worked out brilliantly.

During the work with the small children and women in Pune, it quickly became clear that a further group of people must be integrated more closely: the adolescents. They are the trainers of tomorrow and are at the interface between school, training and professional life. AILSG anchored knowledge of disaster risk reduction more firmly in this area too by cooperating with the universities. Joint training courses and seminars are being offered, for example at the Yashwantrao School of Social Work in the Satara District and at the Bharati Vidyapeeth University in Pune.

To underscore how important young people also are, Prof. Mukesh Kanaskar, Deputy Director General, AILSG, speaks of a movement: "Young people must realise that they are important pillars of our society. They can contribute a lot to safety. For this reason we founded the 'My DRR' initiative: Movement of Youths for DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction)." Each school or youth group that becomes involved in the RISK Award project receives an award from the Institute, and the opportunity to participate in seminars and training courses given by the AILSG. So far, the movement has over 1,500 young members.

Trophies including the "MY DRR Trophy" (below) were awarded to participants of a set of training courses. These trophies make proud and the recipients often adopt stronger ownership for training other people in the area.



In mid-December 2017, AILSG organised a final dissemination seminar for the 2015 RISK Award project. Project staff and partners were first invited to Mumbai, and then to rural Kalampada in the Palghar district (120 km from Mumbai). There they discussed and evaluated the first results. International students from seven universities were also invited. It is hoped they will act as multipliers in their courses of study. Initially, 120 participants were selected from over 300 student applications to take part in the three-day final seminar. Shweta Gupta, Executive Director at AILSG, explained why this is important: "This kind of practical insight is extremely valuable for the students, because teaching at Indian universities often tends to be quite theoretical."

In conversation with Anuja Gulati, State Programme Coordinator, United Nations Population Fund or UNFPA, Maharashtra, Mukesh Kanaskar underlined how important partnerships are – whether with international organisations or with the private sector. The RISK Award pilot project was the enabler for many other activities and networks. It has now been incorporated into joint projects with the United Nations Population Funds (to diversify the ways of earning a living in rural regions) and with UNICEF (WASH programmes). The RISK Award efforts are synergised with initiatives supported by the CSR group of the National Stock Exchange of India Limited and the CR department of the TATA Group, as well as with other organisations.

Rema Mohan, Head, CSR, National Stock Exchange of India Limited, explained in her presentation why the exchange between NGOs and the private sector in India has operated successfully for so long. "India has some of the oldest NGOs in the world. They have always taken on tasks to protect the population by developing replicable innovations. And this sense of responsibility is also found in many private companies," she explained. So it is quite normal for significant portions of these companies' revenues to be invested in CR projects with NGOs.



The AILSG established a dense network with various partners from academia, politics and the private sector. During the final dissemination workshop in Mumbai in December 2017, Rema Mohan, Head, CSR, National Stock Exchange of India Limited, and Yusuf Kabir,

Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH) Specialist at UNICEF Maharashtra, expressed great interest in the RISK Award project.

Not only the children and women in Pune have learned how to protect themselves from dangers and risks. The project team has learned which methods work well and which don't. Other people also benefit from their experience.

Sharing knowledge and scaling protective measures — Rural and urban project sites



Remote location: Jawhar Taluka

Tribes represent a large group of society in India. It is estimated that more than 100 million people are living in scheduled tribes. Jawhar Taluka is an interesting location in this respect. It lies in the Palghar district in the state of Maharashtra. The region is considered to be one of the poorest in all of India. Ninety per cent of the population – roughly 130,000 people – belong to tribal-specific ethnic groups. The technical and social developments currently taking place at a hurtling pace in the urban centres of India pass by this region almost unnoticed. Hunger, malnutrition and poverty are constant companions of its inhabitants.

The tribal people (clans) live under very difficult geographic conditions in a countryside riven by mountains and almost inaccessible valleys. Many of the villages are not yet connected to a road or pathway system. Given the almost 2,500 millimetres of precipitation per year – almost three times the volume in Munich, for example – floods, mudslides and landslides are constant risks.



The right motivation is important

The RISK Award team from AILSG worked in 17 municipalities to transfer knowledge gained in Pune into action in this region as well. Two villages, Behelpada and Kirmire, are particularly threatened by natural hazards. A nearby river unleashes heavy floods almost every year during the monsoon season. When this happens, people are completely cut off from the outside world for days on end, sometimes even for weeks, as they were this year again. For seven days in 2016, the people had no access to fresh drinking water or food. Mukesh Kanaskar, Deputy Director General, AILSG, explains: "The people affected are frustrated because they see no way out. Efforts at simple solutions, such as building a reinforced bridge against the floods, are no longer even being attempted. At the moment, the most important thing is to take people seriously and motivate them to do something again!"

AILSG carried out risk reduction measures in cooperation with youth groups in Behelpada drawing on the experience gained in Pune. As an initial technical support, the villagers received the custom-designed RISK Award Disaster Emergency Kits already being used in Pune.



Ram Nagar Slum, Thane City, Mumbai – Urbanisation as a risk

Rapid, often unplanned, urbanisation is also an important topic in India's regional planning. Large cities, in particular, are bursting at the seams. Best example: Mumbai. In 1990, the agglomeration area had about ten million inhabitants; today it has twenty million. Its growth cannot be fully controlled, often resulting in slums. Some are officially registered, many were built without permission.

AILSG has selected the Ram Nagar Slum in Thane, on the outskirts of Mumbai. Action is urgently needed in the face of population density, poverty, population growth, monsoon rains, floods and landslides leading to a dangerous mix of hazards for the people. As many slum-dwellers are illiterate, the "Self-Assessment and Planning Tool", developed in cooperation with the slum inhabitants in Pune, is also proving its worth in Mumbai. "Using this participatory method of risk analysis, we are at the spearhead of a modern urban development," emphasises Kanaskar. Their efforts are being rewarded with no small success: the "Global Urban Climate Consultation" Conference took place in Mumbai from 24 to 26 October. Along with the city council of Mumbai, the hosts also included UNICEF and representatives of the Maharashtra government. They praised the progress being made in the RISK Award Project, underscoring AILSG's methods as a good example.

A new focus: Preparing Denotified and Nomadic Tribes in India for disaster risk

110 million people are most vulnerable to disasters

The most vulnerable – most at risk?

Denotified Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) live in extreme deprivation. They find shelter in makeshift tents beyond village boundaries, in social and geographic isolation. Access to clean drinking water, safe sanitation, livelihood opportunities, electricity, adequate lighting and ventilation are often lacking. A very low educational status limits the chances of breaking the cycle of poverty. Consequently, exposure to natural hazards is very high. No need to say that housing isn't adequate when disasters such as flash floods or windstorms strike.

Especially women and young girls are at risk. Their vulnerability is exacerbated by the patriarchic structures characterising these population groups. Women have to face many atrocities including domestic violence and exploitation – child marriage is very common.

India hosts around 650 types of nomadic tribes accounting for an estimated total of 110 million people. To illustrate this: If DNTs represented the total population of a country, it would be the 12th biggest state worldwide! Still, so far DNTs have not been considered in capacity-building efforts to reduce disaster risk.

Elderly women of nomadic tribes are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of disasters.



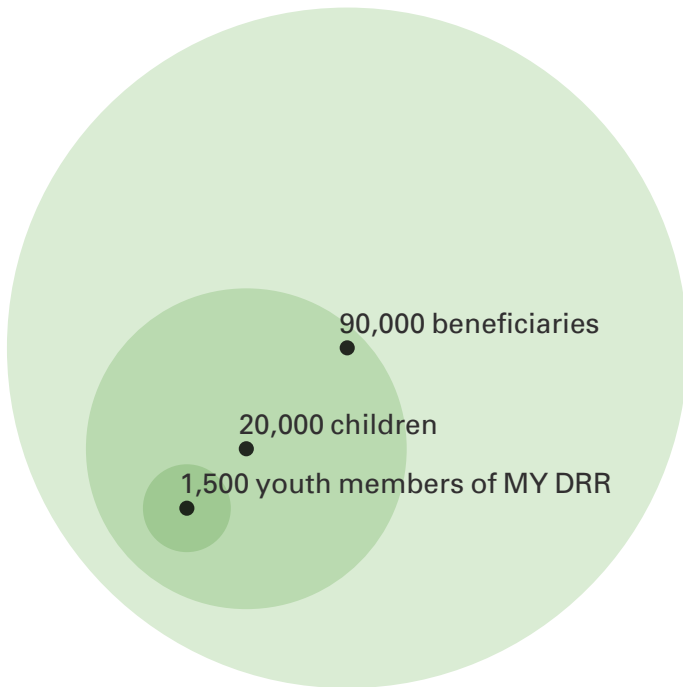
AILLSG embarks on a mission: Preparing DNTs for disaster

Thus, the RISK Award team embarked on a mission to reach these disaster-vulnerable populations. Accessing them proved to be a challenge in itself, as skepticism towards any interaction with strangers prevails. This behavior is rooted in the era of British rule, when DNTs were branded as criminals and have since been suffering discrimination and exclusion for generations. The team from AILLSG however succeeded in mobilising a great number of people, by interacting with and consequently convincing the Caste Councils of various DNTs that building DRR capacity is of high importance.

In December 2016 a Capacity Building Program for DNTs, with a special focus on women, was held in Ahmednagar, a town located 120km from Pune. The community members were familiarised with the risks posed by natural hazards through a street play, performed by DNT women. To solidify the newly acquired knowledge, technical sessions were held and then put to the test in mock drills.

In the following months, the AILLSG team trained target groups in the DNT villages to better prepare against risks. The training not only focuses on disasters but also on self-made problems. For example, many households still use old-fashioned 3-stone cooking stoves. They are very energy-inefficient and impose a lot of health risks due to emissions. The project team taught the villagers how to use better stoves which they can produce or adapt themselves. This measure reduces the use of resources (wood and coal) and contributes to health protection. The stoves, as well as the general risk management trainings, clearly prove that awareness and education are key to creating more resilient societies.

Thanks and outlook



After two years of partnership, and as agreed, Munich Re Foundation ended its financial support for the project at the end of 2017. The prize money from the 2015 RISK Award helped the project to initiate the pilot phase, set the course, and celebrate the first major successes. At the same time, in the span of just two years, our project partners at AILSG managed to establish extensive contacts with communities, universities, other funders and many more parties besides. The enthusiasm on the ground and the rapid developments are an indication that local people have identified very closely with the project. That is an important mark of ownership, and will be an element in the continuation and expansion of the activities. With the newly created RISK Award network, the actors can now continue to implement their various tasks with renewed enthusiasm.

The children benefitting from the project will be the agents of change of tomorrow. If they are well-equipped and educated they can make their communities a safer place.



About the RISK Award

The risks posed by population development, environmental and climate change are increasing. Complex technical systems and infrastructure are additional risk factors. The Award partners recognise the need to address this development. The RISK Award has been set up to help improve risk reduction and disaster management by providing financial support to projects dedicated to this topic.

Prize and awarding ceremonies

The RISK Award, endowed with €100.000, is assigned to operational projects in the field of risk reduction and disaster management. The prize is awarded every two years. The International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC), organised by GRF Davos, and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, organised by UNISDR, host the awarding ceremonies. The endowment for the RISK Award is provided by the Munich Re Foundation.

2015 Winner: All India Institute of Local Self Government

Founded in 1926, AILSG is one of the oldest NGOs in India, dedicated to the issues of poverty, environment, disaster management and preparedness, climate change and local governance. Headquartered in Mumbai, AILSG has 30 offices in India including Pune. AILSG's endeavors include 'City Disaster Management Plans' developed for four cities including Pune, 'School Safety Programmes' covering 437 schools, and many more.

Furthermore, AILSG is entrusted with the responsibility to host the 'Regional Center for Urban & Environmental Studies' for the Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India since 1968 and the 'National Resource Center on Urban Poverty' for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India since 2006.



Project partners

UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

ISDR is a strategic framework, adopted by United Nation Member States in 2000, aiming to guide and coordinate the efforts of a wide range of partners to achieve a substantial reduction in disaster losses and build resilient nations and communities as a fundamental condition for sustainable development. UNISDR is the secretariat of the ISDR system. It comprises numerous organisations, states, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, financial institutions, technical bodies and civil society, which work together and share information to reduce disaster risk.

Global Risk Forum Davos (GRF)

The foundation GRF Davos aims to bridge the gaps between science, administration, the private sector, the practice and the public regarding risk reduction, disaster management, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. GRF Davos is the organiser of the International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC). IDRC is a global gathering of experts for risk reduction, disaster management and climate change adaptation, and held as a biennial conference in Davos, Switzerland.

Munich Re Foundation (MRF)

The Munich Re Foundation is an independent, non-profit organisation founded by Munich Re in 2000. People are ultimately at the core of what the foundation's work is all about. The foundation's task is to prepare people for the risks they are exposed to and to minimise these risks wherever possible. It clarifies issues and provides support, also in developing countries. In dialogue with partners worldwide, Munich Re Foundation stimulates ideas and creates perspectives.



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