

Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF)

National Planning Workshop with NGO Partners,
Dec 9-10 2008, New Delhi

Workshop Note



A field test of the Community Disaster Resilience Fund (CDRF) is currently underway with ProVention Consortium, GROOTS International and the National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction (NADRR) in India. The project team held initial community consultations in the three states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh between May and August 2008 and formed a CDRF Advisory Group among NADRR partners in October 2008 under the guidance of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), India.

Swayam Shikshan Prayog and Knowledge Links, on behalf of NADRR, hosted a two day participatory workshop on the 9th and 10th of December with potential NGO partners (implementing organizations for the Community Fund) in order to share and co-create the operational design of the Fund on one hand, and to receive ideas from experienced NGOs as to how they see the concept and design of this fund.

Twelve NGOs from various states facing multiple hazards from coastal, hilly terrains and drought prone areas across India attended the workshop and contributed to the lively debate. There was unanimous feeling that long term DRR needs to closely revolve around livelihood priorities if community ownership was to be built. On the design of the fund, selection criteria for NGOs and communities, management of the Fund and ways to move forward, useful inputs and ideas emerged.

The project period of ten months (Jan-Oct 2009) seemed very short to look at the impact of the Fund, but everyone agreed that a start could be made by getting women /community groups in the planning for DRR. The guiding principles¹ around community ownership, transparent utilization of funds, grassroots women as lead actors, and partnership with local authorities and Government to scale up efforts were agreed upon readily. Based on a shared understanding developed on the first day, organizations were asked to outline the opportunities for setting up community funds to reduce disaster risk, initiate mitigation efforts etc.

Four key outcomes of the workshop were 1) Understanding of broad areas of work on DRR and community resilience 2) Refining the criteria for NGO selection 3) Inputs for Operational project guidelines 4) Inputs for Proposal Formulation Format for community pilot projects.

All 12 organizations went through a process of self selection at the workshop and committed to working for the success of the project. There was a shared understanding of the project process and next steps namely - evolving big idea with at risk communities, in particular women's groups, forming a CDRF Working Group at the local level to manage the Fund,

¹ Guiding Principles:

1. Demonstrating benefits of community ownership and leadership in resilience building
2. Positioning grassroots women and their groups as lead actors
3. Creating a horizontal community learning network
4. Ensuring total transparency in disbursement and management of funds
5. Establishing partnerships with local authorities/governments

partnering with local governments and facilitating contribution from their own funds and from communities to demonstrate buy in at multiple levels and sustain the efforts beyond the project period.

As an outcome of the workshop, proposal formulation formats were finalized for proposed community pilot projects and sent and submissions expected by December 31st 2008. The final selection of community proposals will be completed in January 2009 by the NADRR core group. At this meeting, proposals will be examined and the project management and monitoring arrangements will be finalized with inputs already received from NGO /community partners.