



## Fast Facts

**Country:** India

**Duration:** August 2003 to July 2005

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP

**Other Implementing Partners:** Ministry of Home Affairs; State-level disaster management authorities

**Budget:** \$1,030,000

**Key Words:** Natural disasters; capacity-building

## BACKGROUND

The threat of natural disasters is a constant source of insecurity in India. For disaster-prone communities, earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones can wipe out years of economic gains and exert significant pressure on already vulnerable individuals and households. At the same time, heavy reliance on

agriculture, coupled with unsustainable farming practices, contributes to the ongoing degradation of local eco-systems and results in excessive soil erosion, desertification, salinization and loss of trees and groundwater supplies.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to mobilize local response to natural disasters in three of the most disaster-prone states in India - Orissa, Bihar and Gujarat. By supporting community-based disaster preparedness and recovery plans, the project increased awareness, improved local capacities and strengthened risk management in the most vulnerable communities.

Specifically, the project (i) supported an extensive awareness campaign on disaster preparedness and relief; (ii) promoted multi-hazard preparedness, response and mitigation strategies; (iii) established early warnings systems and information centers; and (iv) conducted training in disaster preparedness, including rescue, relief and restoration operations.

### BENEFICIARIES

Participating communities benefited from training on disaster risk management and as a result more than 6,200 villages formed disaster risk management teams.

In addition, local- and state-level government officials received capacity-building trainings on how best to cope with and recover from natural disasters.