

## **Project Annual Report** **May 2008 – April 2009**

**Disaster Risk Reduction in Subarnarekha River Basin of Balasore & Mayurbhanj  
Districts in Orissa.**

**Supported by: Oxfam      Project no: INDC 31      Implemented by: Unnayan**

### **Oxfam Unrestricted Narrative report**

#### **Project Details**

- Project Title: Disaster Risk Reduction in Subarnarekha River Basin of Balasore & Mayurbhanj Districts in Orissa.
- Project OPAL ID: INDC-31
- Reporting period: May 2008 to April 2009
- Total May 08/April 09 Unrestricted funding: INR 8,25,000/-
- Location of project: Balasore & Mayurbhanj districts, Orissa

#### **Unrestricted gifts/services or items used or purchased by project**

Following activities supported by unrestricted funds have taken place from May 1- 2008 to April 30- 2009

**Formation and strengthening of village level DRM committees:** Originally it was planned to form DRM committees in 25 villages during this reporting period. However, apart from these 25 villages we DRM committees have been formed in additional villages list of which is given below:

<i>District</i>	<i>Block</i>	<i>GP</i>	<i>No of villages</i>	<i>Name of villages</i>
Balasore	Basta	Raghunathpur	6	Ambakuduchi, Gilajodi, Gopinathpur, Machharanka, Goseinpatna, Asti
		Santoshpur	8	Benapura, Vellora, Santoshpur, Baitpada, Gangadharpur, Dhitpura, Chandipur, Chalanti
		Kulida	4	Belagaon, Garipur, Dhuliuda, Junbalada
		Churmara	2	Churmara, Chaughari
	Jaleswar	Paiksida	3	Gadsahibaliapal, Balikbad, Paiksida
Mayurbhanj	Rasgobindpur	Gadighati	7	Tambakhuri, Bandhamundi, Malkadia, Astagadia, Gadighati, Barhampura, Tikayatpur
<b>Total</b>			<b>30</b>	

Regular meetings and orientations to the committee members have been done by the project staff and volunteers through frequent visits to the villages, individual interactions and group meetings at community level.

**Campaign and community mobilization through Padayatra and village meetings:**

Flood has become a recurring phenomenon in the river Subarnarekha. The nature of devastation in north Orissa in the last two years surpassed all previous records.

In order to generate public awareness on flood management and gather people's opinion on the issue, a "Padayatra" was organized along the banks of Subarnarekha. It started from Baruni Padia (near Subarnarekha bridge at Rajghat) on 08.12.2008 and culminated at Rajghat on 15.12.2008 covering the villages on both sides of the river. Opinion of the local communities for sustainable disaster control measures were documented during this "participatory walk through" for further reflection and action.

Sri Girish Das Chairman of Zilla Parishad of Balasore district inaugurated the Padayatra by flagging it off in the afternoon. Prior to the commencement of the Padayatra, a public meeting was held at the same venue in which about a thousand people from different villages participated. A number of well known people in the area including social workers, intellectuals, advocates, PRI representatives, teachers, engineers, print and electronic media representatives, community based organisations, NGOs and politicians irrespective of all political parties participated in the public meetings and addressed the gathering.

The Padayatra ran successfully with the following main objectives:

- To generate awareness among people and campaign for a long-term solution for devastating flood in the river Subarnarekha through implementation of the proposed Master Plan.
- Formation of Surakshya Sena (DRR Committees) in all the flood-affected villages along the river.
- To generate self-confidence and audacity among the flood affected people to put up with the menace of flood.

The Padayatra was carried out under the banner of "SUBARNAREKHA SURAKSHYA SENA"- the people's forum formed for the purpose. It was led by Sri Sudarsan Das and Sri Bijay Upadhyaya—noted social activists, with support from volunteers and staff members of Unnayan.

About 250 men & women permanently participated in this Padayatra from the beginning. Communities in all the villages and small towns on the way through which the Padayatra passed through gave a remarkable welcome to the participants expressing their support

for the rationale. Hundreds of people including government officials joined in the rally and participated in the public meetings organized at many places through the way. In all the halting places, the village communities showed a generous and benevolent gesture by contributing towards the food and making logistic arrangements for the participants.

A young “Jatha (street play) Team” of 12 trained volunteers (7 boys and 5 girls) have performed at 27 locations with scripts specifically formulated on issues relating to flood in the area and related preparedness measures thus generating awareness among the people. A video documentary prepared by Unnayan on the issue was also displayed in different villages.

The padayatra covered the whole passage of the river in Orissa from where it has entered into the state near Olmara to Kirtania-Dagara where it has mixed with the Bay of Bengal.

The Padayatra culminated at Weekly Market Ground at Rajghat (Haata Padia) on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 (Monday). A Closing Programme was held at 3 PM on 15<sup>th</sup> December at this venue. Among others the MP of Baripada, Sri Sudam Marandi, Ex-MLA Sri Kishor Das, Chairman Zilla Parishad Sri Giris Das, District Project Coordinator of RWSM Ms. Tuhina Ray and Chairman of Basta Block Ms. Sarojini Ghosh addressed the gathering in the culmination function.

**Printing and circulation of handouts:** Handouts reflecting the issue(s) pertaining to implementation of NREGA , Public Health, Disaster preparedness, duties and responsibilities of different stakeholders and affected people’s opinion on flood management have been printed in local language and circulated among the people in flood affected area.

**Training Programme on CBDP:** Training programmes on CBDP has been conducted in 2 phases, each of 2 days duration. First phase training was conducted on 21-22 January 2009 and the second training was conducted on 19-20 February 2009 involving CBOs and volunteers selected from the 30 vulnerable villages covered under the project. The project implementing staff were also involved in this training.

**Cluster Level Trainings:** Cluster level training programmes of 1 day duration were conducted by the already trained people from respective village committees, trained staffs and volunteers of Unnayan. Training has been imparted to 5 selected members of each village level DRM committee. Thus 150 village level members have been oriented. 4 such trainings have been conducted on the following dates:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>
16. 02.2009	Santoshpur
21.02. 2009	Raghunathpur
25.02.2009	Kulida
16.03.2009	Churmara

**Developing a Master Plan:** The Subarnarekha river basin experiences severe 3-4 day storm rainfall in the monsoon even to the extent of 905 mm in three days as was the case for the devastating storm of June 16-18, 2008. The basin therefore drains a large flood flow, terminally at Rajghat in Orissa, twice or thrice in a year varying from 1,00,000 Cusec (2832 Cumec) to 5,00,000 Cusec (14158 Cumec) inclusive of spill upstream of Rajghat.

A scientific study has been initiated on the issue under leadership of Dr. B. P. Das, retired Engineer-in-Chief of water resource department. Inception report and hydrology report has already been prepared.

*The inception report has covered the following aspects:*

- Developments in the basin
- Physiography & land use pattern
- Soils
- Meteorology
- Flood generation potential
- Critical examination of catastrophic floods
- Flood control & management in Orissa

*The Hydrology report has covered the following aspects:*

- Hydro-meteorological analysis of floods
- Flooded area

A detailed analysis of flood level and its prediction over the flood plain, the duration of submergence will be covered in the hydrological study report with more insight into the precipitation trend over the entire basin. The situation will be observed for a 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 Cusec flood likely in July/ early August in 2009 to critically analyze the flood problem and suggest appropriate measures in a preliminary way.

A video documentary has been prepared on the issue of flood in Subarnarekha.

**Networking with different stakeholders:** This is an integral part of this DRR programme and liaison with NGOs, INGOs, government agencies (block, district and state level) is a continued effort being done through this project. Consultation and communication with other agencies has been done and linkages established at district, state and national levels. The organizations with whom linkage has been established are Government of India's disaster management portals and forums, such as NIDM and NDMA, the Orissa State Disaster Management Authority, PRI, Government official, Media, civil society organizations and NGOs.

**Formation and activation of DRR committees at Panchayat, Block and District Levels:** Panchayat level DRM committees have been formed in 6 GPs (Raghunathpur, Kulida, Churmara, Paiksida, Santoshpur and Gadighati). Meetings have been conducted to activate the Panchayat, Block and district level committees.

## Project Overview

Every year, people in this project area suffer from the same problem; the only change is in the intensity of the flood. Therefore, the question arises “why is this recurring flood and suffering caused to people?” There is no short cut or readymade answer to this longstanding problem. Some say it is lack of political will, some lethargic attitude of the government system, some others say it is people’s lack of awareness and preparedness and so on. Nothing is whole and soul reason but they all combined form the basis of the problem. The solution also comes from these quarters and needs a proper framework for achieving sustainable disaster mitigation and community development. This project has created a strong ground in the context of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction in the operational area.

30 most vulnerable villages in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts of Orissa have been covered under the project. The long term goal of the project is Reduction of vulnerability of people towards the occurrence and effects of disaster/flood in Subarnarekha river basin of Balasore & Mayurbhanj districts in Orissa. The thrust of the project has been to generate awareness among people on various issues related to flood (Environmental, Governance & Livelihoods etc) through people’s mobilization, capacity building and institutional arrangement at different levels.

The project has brought about the following results during the implementing period:

- A general awareness has been built among the victims/ village communities in 30 villages on the core issues and causes of recurring flood in river Subarnarekha triggering them to respond to the issue at their own levels.
- 30 community based organisations shall emerge for community based disaster preparedness and response.
- 150 trained community members have been created with knowledge, skill and voluntary spirit for disaster management spread over 30 most vulnerable villages.
- Large number of people has participated in open platforms where they have raised the issue of flood before the candidates of Assembly and Parliamentary elections held recently in the state.
- A master plan document has been initiated forming a scientific base for advocacy for flood control measures in Subarnarekha basin.
- Active Panchayat, Block and District level DRR committees will be in place to address the issue at different levels.
- Subarnarekha Surakshya Sena has emerged as a strong and concerned citizen’s forum to take up the issue and doing advocacy for a sustained measure of flood control in the region.

## Images

Images of DRR programme are attached in a separate PDF file.

## **Finance report**

**The financial report for the period May 08 to April 09 has been attached separately. There is an unspent balance of Rs.75,307(Rupees Seventy Five Thousand Three Hundred Seven Only). This balance amount is against the payment to be made after submission of final report by the consultant who is heading the study on flood management aspects of river Subarnarekha. Two reports have been submitted by the consultant and the balance amount is to be paid after submission of the final report as per the agreement. The unspent balance will be utilized during 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the next project year.**

**Permission from Oxfam is sought for utilization of the above-mentioned balance fund during next project year.**

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*Report submitted on 01.05.2009*