



## Disaster Risk Awareness and Preparedness Program for Families living in 10 villages of Kattumannar Block, Cuddalore District, Tamilnadu State, India

### Project Completion Report

#### 1. Introduction

The incidences of natural disasters and consequent complex emergency situations are on the rise in the past decade. The communities that are living in areas prone to natural disasters are vulnerable to risks and hazards. Human settlements bear the brunt of the negative impacts of natural disasters, requiring long time and more resources to come back to normalcy. Habitat for Humanity India, through its Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation program aims at assisting communities living in vulnerable areas to build their capacities and work together to increase their resilience.

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation efforts help communities to identify vulnerabilities and the factors contributing to the vulnerabilities. Many of the vulnerabilities identified by the communities found to be related to Poverty, livelihood, unsafe buildings and lack of resources.

Disaster Risk Reduction Initiatives involve, the various steps taken to decrease the consequences of an event including measures of Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness and Response. Till date, HFH India has helped more than 29,000 families from the Disaster Prone areas to strengthen their capacities to mitigate and recover from disaster impacts.

Disaster Risk Awareness and Preparedness Program for Families living in 10 villages of Kattumannar Koil Block, Cuddalore District, Tamilnadu State, India is a new Project implemented in Flood prone areas in Cuddalore regions of Tamil Nadu. The Project assisted 2500 individuals to equip themselves with Disaster Risk Reduction concepts and to take active part in mitigating and responding to disasters in a proactive way. The project was funded by Habitat for Humanity International and the Habitat for Humanity India implemented the Project with support from REAL an NGO working in this community.

*HFH India Disaster Response Desk*

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## 1. Project Summary

<b>Name of the Project</b>	Disaster Risk Awareness and Preparedness Program for families living in 10 villages of Kattumannar Block, Cuddalore District, Tamilnadu State, India
Target Area/Villages	10 Villages
Panchyat / Block	6 Panchayats in Kattumannar Koil Block
District	Cuddalore
State / Country	Tamil Nadu, India
Focused Community	Dalit/ Backward /Most Backward – Families living below Poverty Line (BPL)
Project Time Line	August 2011 to April 2012
Budget	\$ 8,000
Partner Details	Rural Education and Action for Liberation (REAL)
Address	No.21 (Appt 1 B), Judge Shahul Towers, Anna Nagar Main Road, Pondicherry – 605 005
Funding Source	HFH International
Contact Person	V.Samuel Peter, Director Disaster Response HFH India

## 2. Project Background

Kattumannarkoil block is situated in Cuddalore District. The Project villages are flood prone areas and every year they experience flooding. The sudden flooding results in loss of shelters and belongings. Those who are living in the low lying areas are dalits and backward class people. They are very vulnerable to flooding in these areas. This region's vulnerability is compounded by socio-economic conditions that are steadily increasing the impact of disasters. Demographic changes, urbanization, and environmental degradation have reduced the amount of habitable land available. In addition to natural disasters, civil crises and complex emergencies have also affected development as there is constant struggle between the Dalits and upper caste people. The people are working as daily agricultural labourers in the farms and as daily wage earners in the factories in the nearby towns.

The shelters of most of the Dalits and backward class people were damaged as they are living in thatched houses and their habitation is on the downward sides (very close to the river). The people do not have the financial capacity to construct new and disaster - safe houses. Currently they use palm leaves and canes to repair and renovate their damaged houses. There is no awareness about early warning systems and disaster preparedness though the families are in constant fear of floods. REAL had proposed a Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction project to Habitat for Humanity India

### 3. Project Goal & Objectives

#### GOALS:

To develop disaster resilient communities in 10 villages covering 2,500 families in Kattumannar Koil block, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu

#### Objectives:

1. To develop “**Village Level Disaster Risk Reduction Plan**” in 10 villages in Kattumannar Koil block of Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
2. To form and capacitate “**Emergency Response Team**” in 10 villages in Kattumannar Koil block of Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
3. To develop “**School Based Disaster Risk Reduction Program**” in 15 schools in Kattumannar Koil block of Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu
4. To capacitate staff members of “**REAL**” in Disaster response skills

### 4. Project Location

Ten villages in Kattumannarkoil district were selected for the project operations. The names of the villages and the number of families and the population are given in the table below:

Sl. No	Name of the Village	No. of Families	Population Details			
			Children	Men	Women	Total
1	Kurungkudi	539	473	824	825	2122
2	Periyapunganathi	226	216	438	399	1053
3	Chinnapunganathi	153	119	283	260	662
4	Kandamangalam	694	957	1484	1628	4069
5	Veerananthapuram	352	426	449	445	1320
6	Venkatesapuram	92	45	118	113	276
7	Veerananalloor	447	310	540	524	1374
8	T.Madapuram	163	147	222	220	589
9	Nattarmangalam	629	392	984	936	2312
10	Pattikollai	38	45	94	80	219
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3333</b>	<b>3130</b>	<b>5436</b>	<b>5430</b>	<b>13996</b>

### 5. Project Activities

#### a. Orientation and Capacity Building - Project Staff:

One day Capacity Building Workshop for the staff of REAL –HABITAT Project Team was conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at REAL’s Koonimedu Training Center in Villupuram district. 15 staff from REAL had participated in the Capacity building workshop and Mr. Paul Sundar, Director, Habitat India, Chennai, Mr. Samuel Peter, Director, Disaster Management Programme, Habitat India and Mr. Lawrence, President cum Director, REAL had been present at the workshop.

With a prelude on various types of disasters in the world and India, the participants of the training had been imparted modules of Village and Schools DMP, DRR, Emergency Operation, Disaster Management Committees at the Village Levels, School Safety and Trainings to School Children and Teachers etc. The Focus Group Discussion and the Question and Answer Sessions helped the participants in enhancing their knowledge on DMP and DRR.

**a. Developing Disaster Risk Reduction Plan in 10 Villages**

The Project Team had been able to prepare the DRR *Plan* for all the villages with the active participation of the village communities and volunteers through PRAs and PLAs during September and October 2011. The services of 10 volunteers from each village had been utilized in the collection and compilation of village resource data. The village PRA mapping had been completed in 5 villages.

**C. Community guidance on Disaster Risk Reduction – Men, Women SHGs, Youth, Adolescent Girls, Vulnerable members:**

The table below shows the number of people trained:

Sl. No	Date	Village	Participants
<b>A. Women SHGs:</b>			
1	15.10.2011	Kurungkudi	105
2	18.10.2011	Nattarmangalam	117
3	20.10.2011	Pattikollai	108
4	05.11.2011	T.Madapuram	110
5	10.11.2011	Veerananalloor	112
6	10.02.2012	Periya Punganadhi	120
7	11.02.2012	Kandamangalam	120
8	15.02.2012	Chinna Punganadhi	120
9	16.03.2012	Periya Punganadhi	125
10	17.03.2012	Kandamangalam	176
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1213</b>
<b>Men:</b>			
1	10.12.2011	Periyanpunganathi	39
2	12.12.2011	Kandamangalam	40

3	15.12.2011	Veerananalloor	37
4	17.03.2012	Kurungkudi	40
5	17.03.2012	Veerananthapuram	40
6	18.03.2012	Venkatesapuram	38
7	18.03.2012	Chinna Punganadhi	40
8	18.03.2012	Nattarmangalam	42
9	19.03.2012	T. Madapuarm	39
10	19.03.2012	Pattikollai	41
	<b>Total</b>		<b>398</b>
<b>Youth &amp; Adolescent:</b>			
1	25.11.2011	Chinnapunganathi	38
2	30.11.2011	Venkatesapuram	40
3	06.02.2012	Kurungkudi	60
4	06.02.2012	Veerananalloor	60
5	08.02.2012	Nattarmangalam	60
6	08.02.2012	Periya Punganadhi	60
7	10.02.2012	Kandamangalam	60
8	10.02.2012	Pattikollai	60
9	11.02.2012	T. Madapuram	60
10	11.02.2012	Chinna Punganadhi	22
11	13.02.2012	Veeranadhapuram	60
12	13.02.2012	Venkatesapuram	20
	<b>Total</b>		<b>600</b>
<b>Vulnerable Members</b>			
1	22.03.2012	Kurungkudi	35

2	22.03.2012	Kandamangalam	30
3	22.03.2012	Veerananthapuram	28
4	24.03.2012	Venkatesapuram	25
5	24.03.2012	Chinna Punganadhi	28
6	24.03.2012	Periya Punganadhi	30
7	25.03.2012	Veerananalloor	26
8	25.03.2012	Nattarmangalam	42
9	25.03.2012	T. Madapauram	25
10	25.03.2012	Pattikollai	18
	<b>Total</b>		<b>287</b>

**d. Training Program for the Emergency Response Team:**

Sl.No	Date	Village	No. of Participants
1	20.01.2012	REAL Training Centre, KM Koil	100
2	21.01.2012	REAL Training Centre, KM Koil	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>200</b>

**e. Training Program for Disaster Management Committee Members:**

S.No	Date	Village	No. of Participants
1	29.01.2012	REAL Training Centre, KM Koil	100
2	30.01.2012	REAL Training Centre, KM Koil	100
<b>Total</b>			<b>200</b>

**f. Mock Drill Programme:**

The Fire and Rescue Services Department personnel had conducted mock drills on DRR in all the villages and schools. The ways, means and the using of local resources in fighting the fire, flood and other hazards had been demonstrated by the Fire and Rescue Services personnel.

#### **g. DRR & Preparedness programme in Schools:**

The School Safety programme in all the 15 schools with the participation of the school children and the staff had helped in identifying the most vulnerable areas in the school and also the evacuation routes, the resources available at the school for combating disasters and hazards had been collected by the students themselves and the plans had been drawn accordingly.

#### **h. Training programme on Hazard Preparedness for School Children:**

All the 15 Schools in the Project areas (10 villages) had been brought under the training programme on Hazard Preparedness for the School Children. Out of the 1012 school children, REAL – HABITAT had been able to train 876 children and 27 teachers on Hazard Preparedness.

<b>School Children</b>			
1	15.10.2011	Kurungkudi	45
2	18.10.2011	Nattarmangalam	37
3	20.10.2011	Pattikollai	38
4	05.11.2011	T.Madapuram	34
5	10.11.2011	Veerananalloor	32
6	06.02.2012	Primary School, Periya Puganadhi	25
7	06.02.2012	Primary School, Chinna Puganadhi	35
8	09.02.2012	Primary School, Veeranadhapuram	82
9	09.02.2012	Primary School Venkatesapuram,	25
10	14.02.2012	Primary School, Veeranallur	67
11	14.02.2012	Primary School, T. Madapuram	36
12	16.04.2012	Primary School, Nattarmangalam	56
13	16.04.2012	Middle School, Nattarmangalam	82
14	16.04.2012	Primary School. Kurungdi	31
15	17.04.2012	Higher Secondary School. Kurungudi	45
16	17.04.2012	Primary School, K. Mangalam	26
17	17.04.2012	Higher Secondary School, K. Mangalam	75



18	18.04.2012	PS, Pattikollai	21
19	18.04.2012	PS, Kurungdi	26
20	18.04.2012	MS, K. Mangalam	58
	<b>Total</b>		<b>876</b>

<b>School Teachers</b>			
1	06.02.2012	Primary School, Periya Puganadhi	2
2	06.02.2012	Primary School, Chinna Puganadhi	3
3	09.02.2012	Primary School, Veeranadhapuram	3
4	09.02.2012	Primary School Venkatesapuram,	4
5	14.02.2012	Primary School, Veeranallur	2
6	14.02.2012	Primary School, T. Madapuram	2
7	16.04.2012	PS, Nattarmangalam	1
8	16.04.2012	MS, Nattarmangalam	1
9	16.04.2012	PS, Kurungdi	2
10	17.04.2012	HSS, Kurungudi	1
11	17.04.2012	Primary School, K. Mangalam	1
12	17.04.2012	HSS, K. Mangalam	1
13	18.04.2012	PS, Pattikollai	1
14	18.04.2012	PS, Kurungudi	1
15	18.04.2012	MS, K. Mangalam	2
	<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>

**i. Capacity Building Training to PTAs:**

<b>Parents Teachers Association Members</b>			
1	06.02.2012	Primary School, Periya Puganadhi	24

2	06.02.2012	Primary School, Chinna Punganadhi	22
3	09.02.2012	Primary School, Veeranadhapuram	25
4	09.02.2012	Primary School Venkatesapuram,	22
5	20.04.2012	PS, Nattarmangalam	24
6	20.04.2012	MS, Nattarmangalam	23
7	22.04.2012	PS, Kurungdi	21
8	22.04.2012	HSS, Kurungudi	22
9	26.04.2012	Primary School, K. Mangalam	24
10	28.04.2012	HSS, K. Mangalam	24
11	28.04.2012	PS, Pattikollai	23
12	29.04.2012	PS, Kurungdi	25
13	29.04.2012	MS, K. Mangalam	21
	<b>Total</b>		<b>300</b>

**j. CB Training on Early Warning, First Aid, Shelter Management Teams:**

The whole concept of Disaster Risk Reduction heavily relies upon the various Teams formation at the village level to minimize the impact of any disaster/ hazard. The formation of Early Warning Team, Search and Rescue Team, First Aid Team, Relief Team, Vigilance Team and Children Protection Team and training the team members in the activities of each team had been done by the REAL – Habitat Project Team.

**k. Linkages development with Government and other NGOs for Sustainability:**

REAL – Habitat DR Team had built up good rapport with the Fire and Rescue Services Department, the Community Leaders, Panchayat Presidents and ward members, Parent Teacher Association members etc.

Mr. Jayavel and Mr. Nagarajan, Fire and Rescue Services Department, Kattumannarkoil and Mr. Mahadevan, Kurungudi Panchayat President, Mr. Kumar, Kandamangalam Panchayat President, Ms. Sudha Manirathinam, Nattarmangalam Panchayat President, Ms. Vanitha, Veeranallur Panchayat President, Ms. Rani Ravi, Veerenanthapuram Panchayat President and Ms. Jayalakshmi Gunabalan, Pattikollai Panchayat President had supported the work of REAL – Habitat in the DRR program.

## I. Formation and Strengthening of Village Level Committees:

15 Village Disaster Management Committees had been formed. All the Village DMC members had gone through the Community Oriented training on DRR

## 6. Program Sustainability

The Disaster Risk Reduction supported by Habitat for Humanity India and implemented by REAL in 10 villages in Kattumannarkoil block had built up components for sustainability. The whole programme was based on Orientation, Capacity Building, and Institution Building etc. The dissemination of knowledge gained on DRR by the trained had in turn educated the other community members and family members in the respective villages. The training to the School Children and the Teachers had actually strengthened the family members of the children and the teachers would be able to pass on the knowledge to the new students also. Hence the chain reaction in the dissemination of knowledge on DRR would be a continuous one. The building up of Institutions like the Village DMP, School DMP committees, the various Teams etc would enhance the sustainability of the program on its own. The linkage with the Government Departments would help the community members to work for their developments.

## 7. Project Output

- ✚ Disaster Risk Reduction plan developed in 5 villages
- ✚ Village Disaster Management Committee formed in all the 10 villages
- ✚ 200 Emergency Response Team Members were trained
- ✚ Mock Drills conducted in the villages and Schools
- ✚ 876 School children and 27 Teachers and 300 Parent teacher Association Members were Trained in DRR aspects
- ✚ 10 REAL staff were trained in Project Monitoring and Reporting
- ✚ Linkage developed with Government Departments and Inter Agency Groups – Sphere initiated network groups

## 8. Key Learnings

- CBDRM process brought to light the existing housing conditions' vulnerability to disasters virtue of their location and quality of structures
- The CBDRM Project promoted togetherness of the community by their coming together in identifying factors contributing to their vulnerability to disasters
- The CBDRM Project enhanced the skill and thereby developed the confidence of the community to face emergency situations by being trained to prioritize problems and develop action plans to address each problems
- The CBDRM initiatives motivated the community members to act as a pressure group to demand the services due to them from the local Government bodies

- The CBDRM project instilled a sense of ownership of the Project by the community members
- CBDRM Project helped in establishing linkages and new relationship among already existing groups in the communities like Self-Help groups, Village Council and Youth Association etc.,
- The School Preparedness component of the CBDRM ensured participation of even children and youth thereby building the foundation for safer families and communities

## 9. Way Forward

Managing Risk through reducing vulnerability is gaining importance. The challenge before us is to introduce long term, sustainable DRR initiatives to the vulnerable communities. Towards this end, there is a need to build the capacity of the people so that they will be able to plan and manage programs with lesser external support.

The role of Habitat will be that of a facilitator, thereby the communities are strengthened to gain confidence to face any disaster situation. Habitat for Humanity India intends to take the DRR initiatives forward through the following ways:

- ❖ Regular updates of the contingency plans will be facilitated
- ❖ In order to acquaint the community members with the Disaster Preparedness and Response initiatives, regular mock drills will be organized
- ❖ Linkages will be established with the Government and Non Government organisations for these communities
- ❖ The regular Habitat housing programs will be extended to these communities in order to improve the quality of housing thereby mitigating their vulnerability due to the existing poor quality of structures
- ❖ Schools should be involved in the risk reduction work thereby the young children, Youth and the Teaching community will join their hands in the CBDRM process
- ❖ Motivate the community members to develop village contingency/emergency funds for immediate use at the time of emergencies/disasters
- ❖ The risk reduction initiatives will be mainstreamed in to the overall village development plan in order to inculcate the importance of disaster preparedness in these vulnerable communities.

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Annexure 1 – Photographs

Hazard Mapping – Schools & Villages:



**Training to School Children:**



**Capacity Building Training to PTA Members:**



**CB training on DP & DM to Men, Youth, SHGs, Adolescents and Vulnerable people:**



**Mock Drill Programme:**



## Annexure 2

### **SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **Case Study 1**

Name of the Community Member : Ms. Senthamarai

Village : Veerananalloor

I am Senthamarai from Veerananalloor village in Kattumannarkoil Block of Cuddalore district. Veerananalloor is one of the villages frequently affected by intermittent rain, flood, overflow of water from the Veeranam Lake. Every year the entire community suffers due to the floods.

I am extremely glad to say that I am one of the 9 members in the Disaster Emergency Response Team in our village. All our members had no idea about Disaster Management, Preparedness or Disaster Risk Reduction measures before the REAL – HFH India DRR Team had a meeting in our village community during September 2011. It was truly an eye opener!

All the members in the Emergency Response Team, Women SHG members, Men, Youth and Adolescent, Vulnerable members like the Aged, Disabled and the school children from our village has been imparted with training on Early Warning Systems, Search and Rescue, Evacuation, First Aid, Relief, Shelter Management and Vigilance by Resource Persons under REAL – HFH India DRR program.

We have learnt

- The ways and means of using communication gadgets like phone etc at the time of any hazard/ emergency to contact the appropriate authorities for help
- The Fire and Rescue Services Department Personnel had demonstrated through mock drills on the ways of controlling fires in the houses and the society, the means to avoid fires when cooking etc. They also demonstrated the simple rescue techniques. The importance of using the local resources like Coconut Husk, Waste Plastic water bottles at the time of floods, sand against fires, bed sheets, Gunny bags to control flames etc.

I am very proud to say that the trainings and mock drills has helped us in saving our neighbours whose houses were under fire due to electrical short circuit. All the members in our village whole heartedly thank the facilitators from REAL and HFH India.

*\* As narrated by Ms. Senthamarai to REAL – HFH India Project Staff Ms. Rasathi*



## **Case Study 2**

Name of the Community Member : Ms. Thillai Nayagi

Village : Nattarmangalam

I am Thillai Nayagi from Nattarmangalam village in Kattumannarkoil Block in Cuddalore district. It is one of the villages frequently affected by intermittent rain, flood and overflow of water from the Veeranam Lake.

I had studied up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Standard and am a leading member the Women Self Help Group, facilitated by REAL, in our village. Our village, Nattarmangalam is having a population of around 2,000 people. Most of the dwellings in our village are made up of mud walls with thatched roof made of coconut leaves. Since our village is situated in low lying area, it is highly prone to flooding during the rainy season and also to fire during the summer season.

Every year, water overflowing from the Veeranam Lake and Vadalar River used to flood our village. We used to struggle wading through knee deep water and suffer from cold and all sorts of infections. We were unable to do anything and used to wait for the water to recede since we did not have any knowledge on flood management, preparedness, flood risk reduction measures etc.

During the Flood and recent Thane Cyclone, REAL had issued relief materials like mats, provisions, rice, utensils etc. During the month of June 2011, REAL & HFH India had embarked upon the training on DRR to all the community members in our village since our village is highly vulnerable to flood and fire hazards. The formation of Emergency Response Teams and the trainings to school children and others have helped us a lot in facing the Cyclone Thane disaster in December 2011. We have gained confidence and are ready to employ the Risk Reduction measures taught to us by REAL –HFH India, We thank REAL – HFH India for the DRR Training program.

*\* As narrated by Ms. Thillai Nayagi to REAL – HFH India Project Staff Ms. Kodimalar*