

## Response to Disasters in India



## Project Concern International's Response to Disasters in India

India is a country of vast disparities in income and levels of vulnerability to disasters. In UNDP's "Reducing Disaster Risk: A Challenge for Development", India is rated the second most vulnerable country to catastrophic flooding, behind China. It is also prone to severe earthquakes, drought, cyclones, and tsunamis. This vulnerability to disasters is compounded by

extremely high levels of malnutrition, prevalence of disease, poor water and sanitation infrastructure, few viable livelihood options, and minimal access to education, health and other vital services.

PCI's humanitarian assistance programs work in some of the country's most vulnerable and hard to reach areas to help

prevent and mitigate the impacts of chronic disasters; help prepare local communities and governments to manage disaster response locally and increase their capacity to save lives and livelihoods; and they reduce vulnerability and improve quality of life. PCI has developed critical competencies in disaster preparedness and mitigation as well as emergency response.





### PCI's RESPONSE TO TSUNAMI

PCI India was one of the first international organizations to respond to the Indian Tsunami in 2005, and continues to work with affected areas to rehabilitate lives and livelihoods and reduce vulnerability of future disasters.

Some of the achievements have been:

- Delivered health care services to around 40,000 beneficiaries through mobile clinics
- Provided 2,200 people with psychosocial support
- Establishment of community water treatment plants, 8 community waste management systems
- Establishment of 8 crèches, 8 preschools and 8 non-formal education centers
- Establishment of 20 village-level anti-trafficking committees and one district-level vigilance committee.

### CURRENT RESPONSES TO INDIAN DISASTERS

At present, PCI is working in two disaster affected areas of Bihar i.e. Biraul and Kusheshwar Asthan and the areas of work include health,

education, sanitation, livelihood and nutrition. The program has helped facilitate community participation and awareness among stakeholders

The activities conducted include:

- Setting up non-formal education centers
- Training men and women on gender based violence, livelihoods and disaster risk mitigation
- Providing nutritional supplements
- Organizing and training women self help groups on rehabilitation and economic sustainability.

### Cross Sectoral Strategies for Risk Reduction in India

**PCI Program Goal:** Increase awareness and understanding of disaster management among Indian private, public, non-profit, university and community partners, and generate collaborative strategies to reduce vulnerability to disasters in India. PCI is currently running an OFDA program that is building a platform for public, private, university, and NGO partners to collaborate on effective risk management strategies. The

challenges of Bihar provide an opportunity to create an innovative, multi stakeholder and integrated approach that can change the way residents of Bihar prepare for and experience disasters.

### Goal of the programme:

- Facilitate enhanced collaboration, coordination and communication between companies practicing CSR, Universities, NGOs and Government agencies.
- Ensure that residents are prepared to effectively cope with disaster risks including displacement, sanitation, health, nutrition and livelihoods.
- Sensitize companies engaged in Bihar on more effective CSR strategies
- Encourage longer-term preventative investments in CSR ;including enhanced collaboration and communication amongst companies practicing CSR
- Involve universities as important stakeholders and resources that offer professional training, resource mobilization and analysis.
- Assist local NGOs in developing comprehensive DRM programming.