

## Seminar on

# State of Recovery and Rehabilitation in Earthquake affected Jammu & Kashmir and the Future Strategies towards Resilience

13–14 October 2009, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

### BACKGROUND

Disasters leave behind devastation and misery. The effect is more when there is lack of preparedness and capacity. Most of the time after disasters there is utter chaos and helplessness for both the victims as well as the management. People of Kashmir faced a similar situation when the earthquake of 7.6 on Richter scale hit the Kashmir Valley at 9:28 am on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2005 with its epicentre at Muzaffarabad. Being the worst disaster of the century for this area it took toll on thousands of human lives and rendered most of the people homeless. People were traumatised and shocked by a record number of 978 after shocks measuring from 4.0 to 6.2 on Richter scale. The earthquake changed the demography of the area. The local construction could not sustain the jolts and jerks and most of the buildings, residential, schools and offices collapsed into rubble throwing life out of gear.

Both government and civil society worked tirelessly in providing relief to the survivors. Indian Army also joined the local government to respond immediately to evacuate and airlift the injured thus saving hundreds of lives otherwise the death toll would have been much more. Within a week's time several national and international organisations arrived on the spot for rescue and recovery.

Besides the material support people of the earthquake hit area, local governmental and non governmental organisations received rich and varied academic and technical skills gathered from across the country as well as overseas building their capacity to deal with such eventualities in future. Local Government also learnt a lesson and framed policies and created mechanisms that will help in dealing with any disaster situation in future.

After almost four years of recovery and rehabilitation, situation in earthquake hit J&K has improved considerably. Retrofitting and reconstruction is near completion and it is in a stage of transition from recovery to development. The earthquake hit remote areas of Uri and Tangdar are better rebuilt than they

were before the earthquake however, there is lot more to be done and the efforts for this are underway.

It is the right time that the development proceeds on B3 principles that is BUILD-BACK-BETTER through BEST efforts that reduce the vulnerability of the people and don't rebuild the risk. With this background a state level seminar is being organised by CEE and Welthungerhilfe to bring the experts, educators, planners, disaster managers, civil society and other stake holders on a platform to discuss suitable strategies for right kind of development that leads to risk reduction and sustainability.

### OBJECTIVE

This seminar is being organised to share experiences of various stakeholders during the relief and rehabilitation in earthquake affected areas of Kashmir and to develop a roadmap towards building resilience for natural disasters including the climate change impacts.

### PARTICIPANTS

Local and National NGOs involved in earthquake response in Jammu & Kashmir, concerned J&K Government Departments, District Administration from Baramulla, Kupwara, Rajouri & Poonch Districts, Support Agencies and Technical Experts from NIDM/NDMA.

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Review of state of recovery and rehabilitation after 4 years of Kashmir earthquake with special focus on education, health and livelihoods restoration
2. Identification of the gaps and needs for transition from recovery to development phase
3. Contingency planning and preparedness - identification of major stakeholders and their roles
4. Capacity building needs for resilience towards natural disasters and climate change
5. Experience sharing and lessons learned by various humanitarian agencies working in Kashmir.



## Tentative Programme Schedule

**Tuesday 13.10.09**

**FORENOON**

- Registration
- Welcome and Introduction to Seminar
- Keynote address

TEA BREAK

**Panel Discussion I**

- Rehabilitation & Recovery - Education

**Panel Discussion II**

- Rehabilitation & Recovery - Health

LUNCH BREAK

**AFTERNOON**

**Panel Discussion III**

- Rehabilitation & Recovery -
- Infrastructure & Livelihoods

TEA BREAK

- Lessons learned & Best practices  
NGOs/INGOs (presentations)

**Wednesday 14.10.09**

**FORENOON**

**Plenary**

- Capacity building needs for resilience  
towards natural disasters and climate change

TEA BREAK

- Contingency Planning and preparedness - identification  
of major stakeholders and their roles (Group discussion in  
smaller groups)

LUNCH BREAK

**AFTERNOON**

- Contingency Planning and preparedness -  
identification of major stakeholders and their roles -  
presentations on group recommendations

TEA BREAK

- Recommendations - Towards Future Plan of Action

- Valedictory & Closing

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**Welthungerhilfe** (former German Agro Action GAA) was founded in 1962 as the national committee of the "Freedom from Hunger Campaign" set up by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). The Organisation's vision is the effective combat of hunger and poverty and overall objective of the project is food security. Welthungerhilfe's vision is effective combat of hunger and poverty and overall objective is Food Security.

Welthungerhilfe believes the needs, interests and rights of poor people in rural areas should be assigned greater importance at all levels, and the awareness of the causes and consequences of hunger and poverty must create the space for effective practical and political action. Humanitarian assistance and response to unprecedented natural disasters is also one of the focus of Welthungerhilfe.

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**Centre for Environment Education (CEE)** is a national institution established in 1984, supported by the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests as 'Centre of Excellence for Environmental Education'. Its primary objective is to improve public awareness and understanding of environmental issues with a view to promote the conservation of nature and natural resources.

CEE Himalaya is the Himalayan Initiative of CEE which was initiated during the 'International Year of Mountains' in 2002 with an aim to increase awareness and understanding of mountain communities about environmental issues in their fragile ecosystems of Indian Himalayan Region and try to achieve sustainability through education for sustainable development (ESD). Working in partnership with local organizations CEE Himalaya has focus on disaster risk reduction & preparedness education, conservation and management of natural resource, sustainable livelihoods, capacity building and networking.

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