

Janakeeya Pankalithavum Punarnirmanavum

Round 2 Survey Report Highlights

Introduction

Kerala experienced the worst ever floods and landslides in 2018 since 1924. Consequently, there was a need to recover and prepare better for the future beyond traditional approaches, ensuring transparency and people's participation.

The Accountability to Affected Populations, referred as Janakiya Pankalithavum Punarnirmanavum-initiative is an effort of the State Government to build Kerala Back Better, with the participation and feedback from the people affected by the flood.

Vision

- ➊ Strengthen feedback mechanisms and community voices.
- ➋ Include feedback from communities affected by floods and landslides.
- ➌ Establish a system to collect information on post-disaster needs.

Objectives of JPP-I

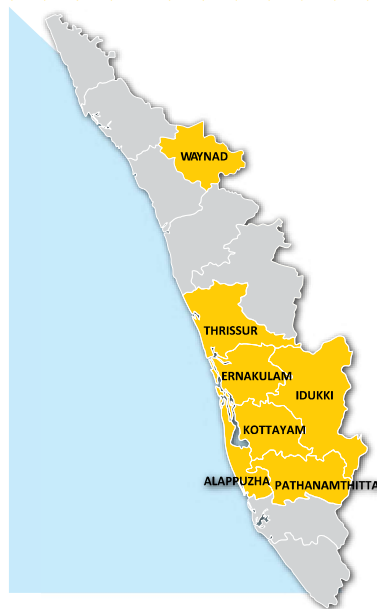
1. Improve communities' access to information on recovery and reconstruction assistance.
2. Ensure communities' inclusion in periodic feedback on post-disaster needs via Government authorities and development actors.
3. Integrate feedback of affected communities into institutional planning processes for recovery and reconstruction.
4. Risk-informed planning in the future and informing communities about inclusion of their feedback in planning.

JPP-I is institutionalized within Kudumbashree, the Self-Help Group network of the Local Self Government Department (LSGD) of Kerala, enabling a connection between ongoing development planning processes and humanitarian response and recovery.

Geographical Coverage

Districts covered:

- Alappuzha
- Wayanad
- Kottayam
- Pathanamthitta
- Ernakulam
- Idukki
- Thrissur



► Round 1:

November 2018-April 2019 (Quantitative study)

Sample size

19,765 people in **489** most affected gram panchayats/ municipalities of the 7 districts

► Round 2:

May 2019- December 2019 (Mixed methodology research design)

Quantitative sample

Multi-stage stratified sampling was used to select **99** LSGIs and a final sample of **3960** Households (HHs)

Qualitative sample

56 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) covering marginalised groups (SC/ST, fisher-folk and daily wage labourers, women-headed households and women micro-entrepreneurs, migrant workers, agricultural labourers, elderly (aged 60+), adolescents (aged 10-18), differently-abled people and their caregivers)

49 Key Informant Interviews (KII) with LSG functionaries/ department officials, District Collector, Revenue officer, village officer, NGOs/CSOs, frontline workers in the same districts

► Objectives for Round 2:

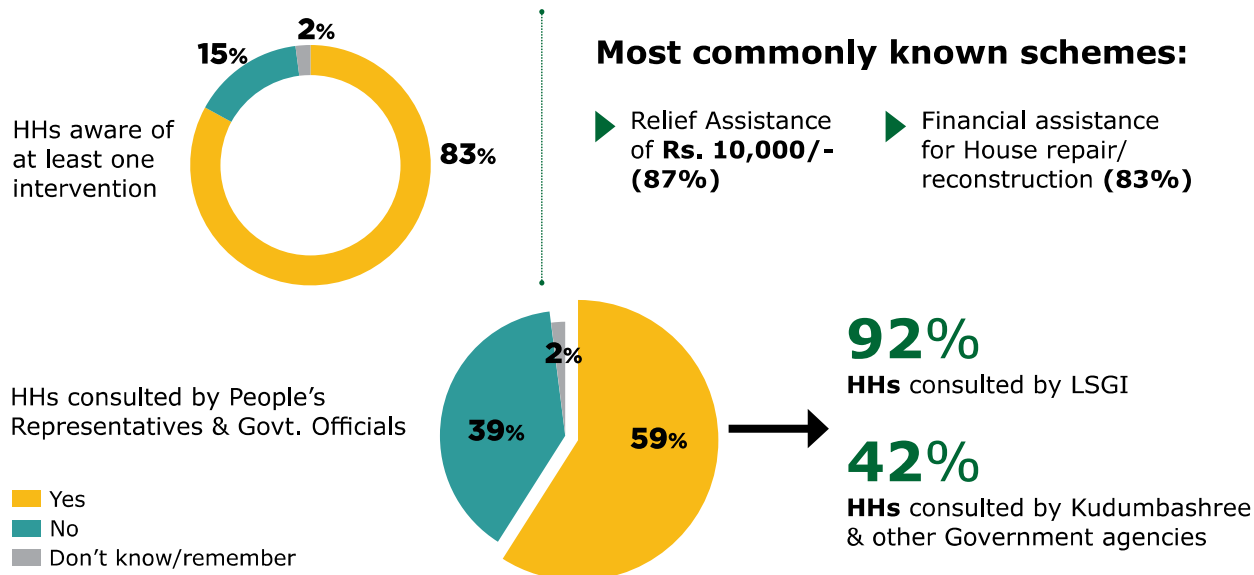
Understand the extent of community consultation (and engagement) in

Assess the efficiency of grievance redressal

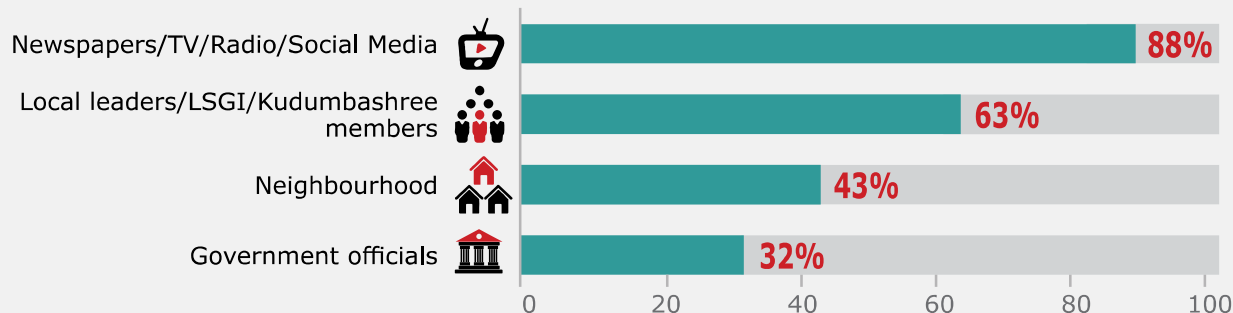
Understand the level of disaster preparedness among

KEY FINDINGS

Community Awareness and Engagement during Rebuilding

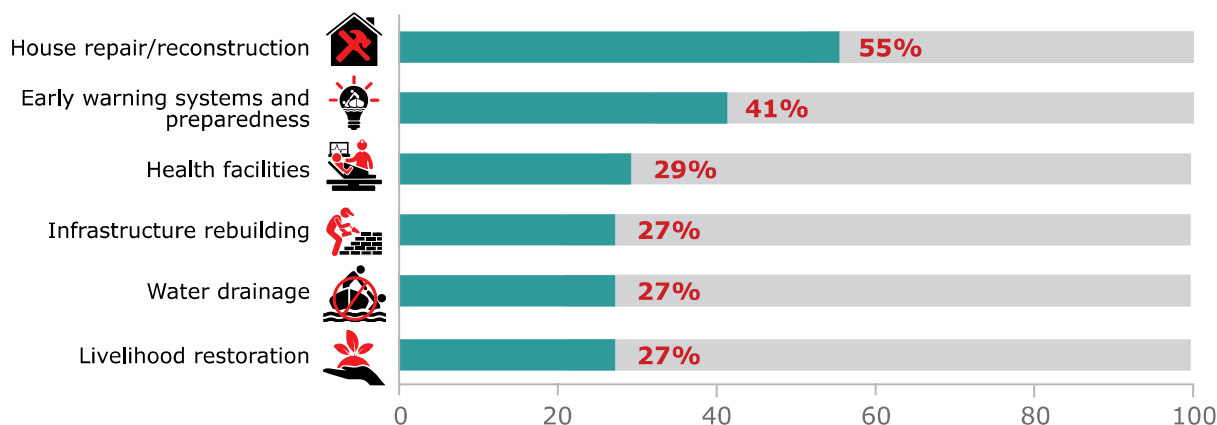


Sources of information on Government programmes in households:



Views and Perceptions on Recovery

Community Priorities

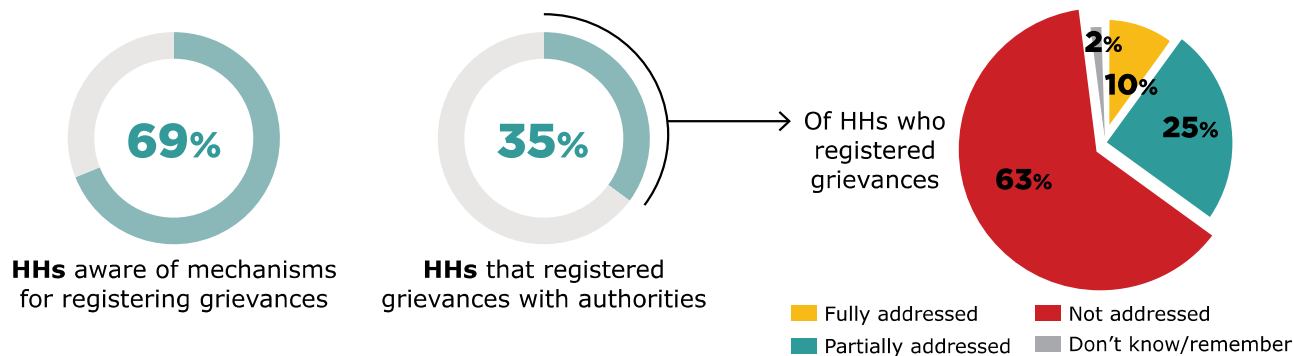


Views on Social Protection Issues & Grievance Redressal Systems

HHs satisfaction with Government Interventions



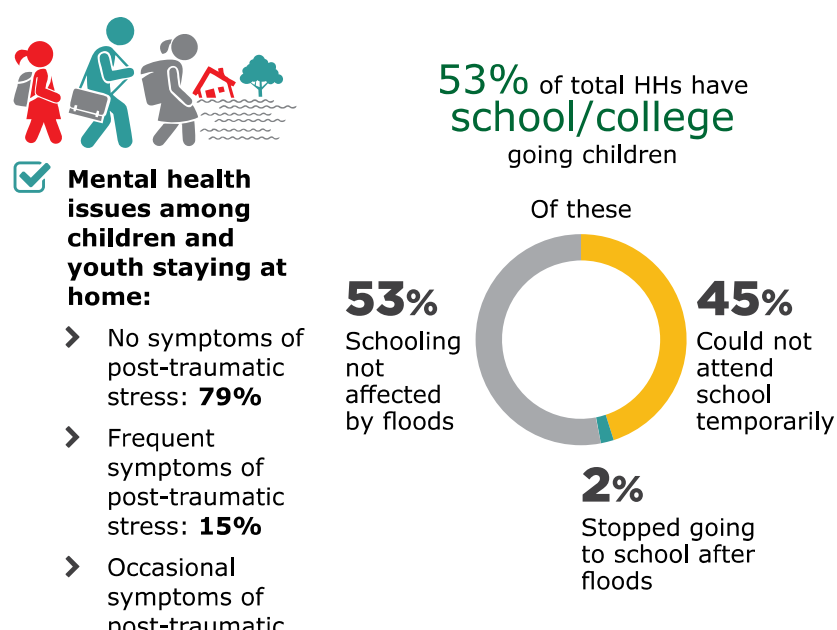
Awareness and engagement on grievance redressal



Loans availed by community

- ✓ **Other than Resurgent Kerala Loan Scheme:**
 - HHs availed of loans: **9%**
 - HHs that didn't avail any loans: **91%**
- ✓ **Utilization of loan amounts by HHs:**
 - House repair/reconstruction: **58%**
 - Livelihood purposes: **36%**
 - Purchase of household appliances: **35%**
 - Health related needs: **13%**
 - Educational purposes: **5%**
- ✓ **HH feedback on loans:**
 - Timely and adequate amount: **57%**
 - Delayed but adequate amount: **12%**

Impact on school/college going children

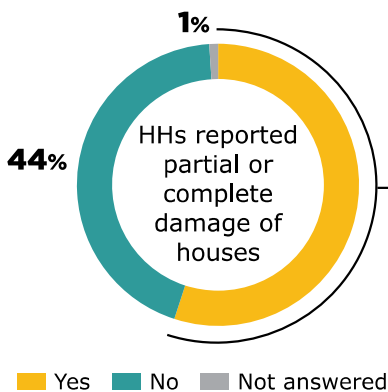


KEY FINDINGS

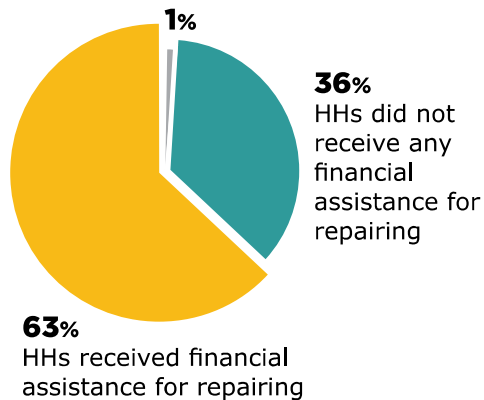
Impact on Housing and Livelihood due to floods

Housing

Was house damaged?



Of these
55%



HHs that experienced house damage did not receive disaster resilient technical assistance for house reconstruction

Of those damaged



10%

Complete/structural damage



34%

Severe damage



27%

Moderate damage

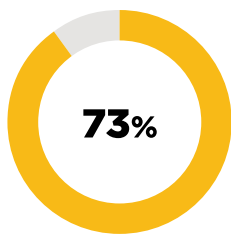


29%

Minor damage

Livelihoods

HHs reported that livelihoods were impacted by floods



After floods, HHs were

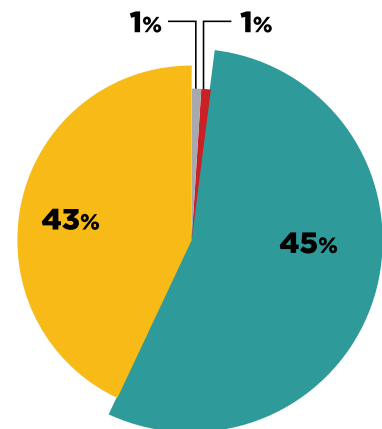
46%
Unable to resume livelihoods/start alternate livelihood



54%
Able to resume livelihood/start alternate livelihood



Post flood change in
HHs income level



86%

SC/STs
Livelihoods

75%

Micro enterprises
Livelihoods affected

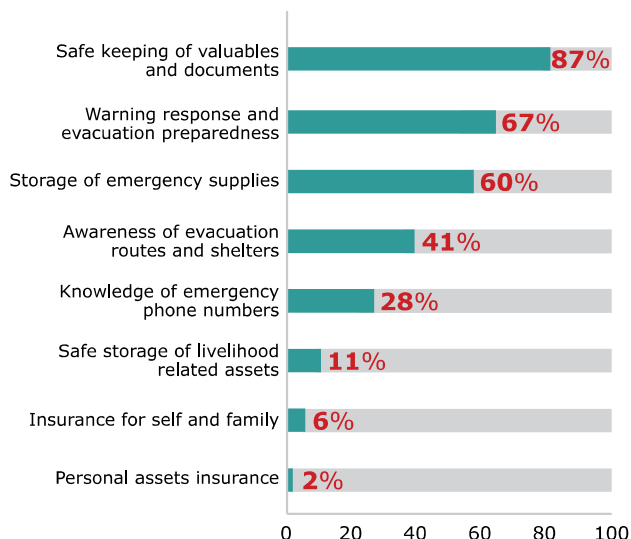
Fisher folk, Daily Wage Labourers, Agriculture Labourers and Small Farmers are among the other most affected groups

No change Decreased Increased Not answered

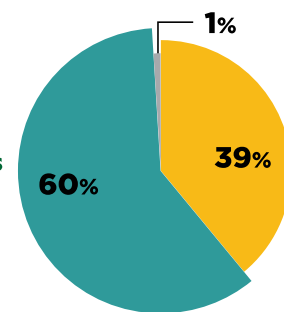
Perception on Preparedness and Prevention



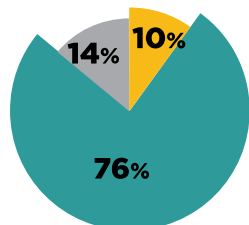
► Preparatory actions taken by families for safety against disasters:



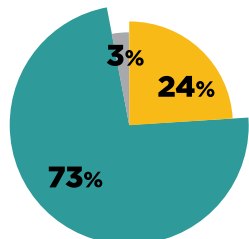
► Preparedness measures taken by HHs to mitigate disasters



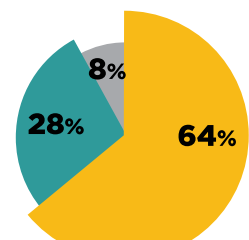
► Local mitigation and preparedness activities taken up by the Government



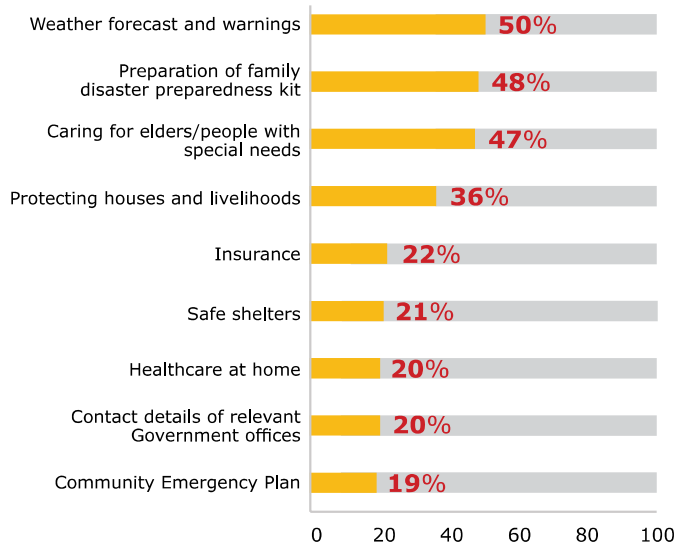
► HHs that think their area is prone to disasters other than floods



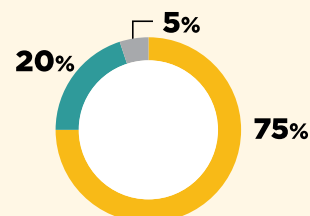
► HHs that think there is a need to educate people on disaster risk



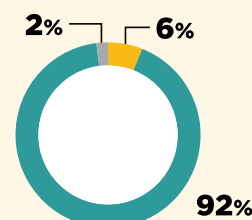
► HHs are interested to learn or receive information on:



HHs that feel their houses should be insured against natural calamities



HHs that have taken house insurance



QUALITATIVE DATA HIGHLIGHTS

Views of the community on response and rebuilding

- **Rescue operations** were carried out successfully and relief camps made available through swift response from the State Government that rapidly mobilized LSGIs, police and voluntary forces (fisher community, civil society volunteers). Most groups acknowledged the exemplary role played by local officials. LSGIs took initiative to ensure inter-departmental coordination and facilitate public participation in rescue and relief efforts.
- **Relief camps** were safety havens for people who had to evacuate from their homes. The supplies and services as well as the physical and social environment of the camps were crucial in helping people immediately deal with the disaster. Camps were hygienic and well managed with sensitive staff, maintaining a harmonious environment. Essential supplies were abundant and of good quality.
- **Care and evacuation of the elderly and disabled** were recognised as challenges. These two were probably the most vulnerable and distressed group at the time of the floods and faced challenges in looking after their needs during and after the disaster.
- **Extensive information dissemination** about schemes and relief measures by mass media channels, social media and community radio during the floods and (rehabilitation services) post floods was acknowledged. Proactive role of LSG members and local functionaries, their helpful attitude and supportive role in providing information and assistance to people was appreciated.

There were variations in perceptions about the adequacy and the credibility of information prior to floods and early warnings. Information shared about the impending disaster was not timely and did not provide adequate time to prepare and act which caused some confusion, ambiguity in terms of steps to be taken.

- **Repair and reconstruction of damaged houses** was a critical priority post flood. House rebuilding assistance was received from the Government, determined by surveys on household damage. Household appliances and assets were restored through contributions from the Government, Kudumbashree and private entities.
- **Rebuilding of public infrastructure** took place through community contributions, by residents, local self government, revenue and health Department, fisher community, police, Kudumbashree, civil society organisations, academic institutions and youth volunteers.
- **Loss of livelihoods and financial burden** has been the greatest impact of the flood on the people. Livelihood-loss compounded by people experiencing losses on various other fronts cumulatively entrenched many families from the vulnerable social groups in a debt crisis. The losses faced by families include damage to agriculture, assets like animals, machines, equipment, loss of employment, juxtaposed with preexisting debts, loans, business investments, houses and other assets.
- **Impact on children and adolescents** was deep and multi-fold. They suffered from psychological stress and trauma due to the losses their families faced as well as the physical damage to their home along with loss of books, stationary, teaching days post floods due to several schools becoming relief camps. Most groups recognized that schools played a critical role in helping their students address most of the academics related aspects affected by the disaster. The teachers were reported by several groups to have played a significant role in proactively counseling students and helping them negotiate their fears.
- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures** have been taken by local self-government institutions (LSGIs) to some extent. LSGIs have constituted community working groups on disaster management, initiated awareness programs on DRR, organized psycho-social programs for all affected, and addressed structural risks (including reconstruction and strengthening of bunds, cleaning and deepening of canals).

The focus group discussions and key informant interviews explored people's ideas about their preparedness for any future eventualities discussing their notions about the causes of the disaster and actions to be taken to address them. The issues raised reverberate the multi-level changes that disaster preparedness of communities would require. These ranged from setting efficient early warning systems to enhancing knowledge and skills about disaster response. Some of the key recommendations are based on the analysis of these discussions



RECOMMENDATIONS



Strengthen communication systems

There is a need to establish early warning systems, providing timely, accurate and accessible information to the community.

- Develop communication systems and evacuation protocols through engagement with the community, to prepare households and build trust.
- Behaviour change communication and capacity building initiatives among community, for better response to warning systems and calls for evacuation.
- Information dissemination on household level disaster preparedness.
- Develop an information campaign to address community's and marginalized groups' entitlements, and government interventions in the event of disaster.



Establishing and capacity building of community networks

Establish community institutions which can be trained in basic disaster preparedness and crisis response.

- Establish local Disaster Management Committees (DMC) consisting of volunteers skilled in disaster management, for immediate guidance to people and to serve as a link between community and Government/relief personnel.
- DMCs to have special focus on enhancing communications and services to marginalized community groups.
- Provide regular capacity building programmes on disaster management among Gram Panchayats, frontline functionaries and police. Highlight roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders at household and community levels.
- Integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training in educational curriculum in schools and in lifeskills for youth.



Streamlining Local Self Government processes

Strengthen capacities of LSGIs on disaster preparedness, facilitate integration of disaster prevention and mitigation in their development work. Communicate specific response roles in the event of disasters, within LSGIs.

- Enable LSGIs to carry out risk-informed planning, staying sensitive to the needs of vulnerable and at-risk communities.
- LSGIs to map vulnerabilities of individuals and households in communities to identify need for priority crisis response, especially for those who do not fall under pre-existing lists/categories of vulnerability.
- Panchayats to assist in digitization of documents and IDs of individuals, to expedite reimbursement and relief efforts.
- Establish grievance redressal mechanisms at Panchayat and Urban Local Body to improve transparency and accountability in the use of recovery funds.
- Establishing easily accessible forums for seeking redressal and accountability can contribute to LSGIs becoming vibrant bodies for reducing people's vulnerabilities during disasters.



Disaster resilient construction norms

Address reconstruction needs of communities' damaged infrastructure and housing, and facilitate disaster resilient construction norms.

- Information dissemination on and promotion of disaster resilient norms for household construction.
- Prepare multi-level guidelines to enable buildings and infrastructure to better withstand future disasters.
- Enforce disaster resilient construction guidelines among high risk and disaster prone zones.
- Build local safe structures for first level evacuation in the event of disaster, and ensure that communities are informed and trained on protocol.
- Build permanent safe places and shelters for humans and animals.



Psycho-social support and counselling

Address post-disaster trauma and mental health needs of the community, particularly among children.

- Provide access to trained counselling services for school students to minimize poor school performance and drop-out following disasters
- Establish counselling facilities for the community within the existing health and education system to address post-disaster mental health trauma.



Building Livelihood Resilience

Make livelihood recovery central to DRR strategy, with a special focus on marginalized communities.

▶ Livelihood Capacities

- ▶ Increase economic activity in different livelihood sectors (Agri, AH, Fisheries, MSME) and build sector-level resilience by promoting sustainable practices, and providing financial and technical support.
- ▶ Build capacities and opportunities for alternate and supplementary income generation.

▶ Safety Nets

- ▶ Establish savings & credit groups among community, specific to livelihood groups and marginalized populations.
- ▶ Integrate Disaster Insurance in policy development, specific to livelihood groups and marginalized communities.
- ▶ Educate people about and promote Disaster Insurance schemes.

▶ Rehabilitation

- ▶ Develop mechanisms for more accurate estimation of losses, and provide compensation commensurate with losses.
- ▶ Revitalize livelihood associations, and map key livelihood sectors among vulnerable groups. Identify opportunities for critical technical and financial support as a part of rehabilitation among these groups.
- ▶ Decentralize decision making processes on distribution of relief measures to the gram panchayat level.



Regular information flow and community engagement during rebuilding

Establish two-way information flow to ensure community-led recovery processes, and maintain quality and accountability in post-disaster response. Ensure correct and accurate information on recovery assistance schemes and financial eligibilities among the community.

- ▶ Establish communication mechanisms with affected communities and ensure access to information and facilitation in availing rights and entitlements.
- ▶ Ensure that recovery and planning processes are based on evidences from the community, in order to improve policy and practice around 'Accountability To Affected Populations' (AAP).
- ▶ Establish regular feedback and communication mechanisms with Government and development actors to mainstream community priorities in institutional planning processes.
- ▶ Strengthen Gram Sabhas, especially in vulnerable locations, to facilitate community-led recovery programmes.

