



Monthly Update

April 2010

**New GFDR Office
in Delhi**



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Greetings from GFDR! In the month of April, as spring bade goodbye and summer crept in silently with high and dry weather, GFDR moved along with high spirit to accomplish commitments and take up many more new initiatives. The month has been very exciting and accomplishing one as we submit the final draft of the report on Gujarat Earthquake Recovery Status Project. With great pleasure, we would also like to let you know that GFDR has opened up a new office in Delhi. This month, we also had the opportunity to be part of the school contact program organized by the University of Delhi. You can read more about this in our update. Other news on new partnerships prospects and our ongoing commitments have been highlighted in this update as well. Once again I would like to thank you for your support and invaluable inputs so far. As always, do let us know what is going on at your end.

Ongoing Endeavors

Gujarat Earthquake Recovery Status Study:

The study on the recovery of Gujarat has come to the final stage. As informed in the last update, we had a State Consultation Workshop in the month of March, with Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority and many other stakeholders who has been associated with the Gujarat earthquake recovery work. After receiving and incorporating all the comments and feed-

backs from the expert participants, we have submitted the final draft of the report to ADRC/IRP. Along with the report, all the six case studies namely- 1. Governance (author Jennifer Kishan), 2. Livelihoods with a focus on the handicrafts industry (author Jennifer Kishan), 3. Gender (author Kalindi Sharma), 4. Response and Recovery Process on Health Sector (author Victoria Devi), 5. Owner-Driven Reconstruction (author Sonia Kaushal), 6. HOLSAA (author Sonia Kaushal) have also been submitted.

The main report along with the case studies has been able to throw light on many good practices which could be replicated, if in case any such unfortunate and devastating disaster has to happen in future. The issues, challenges and the recommendations which are discussed in our report shall definitely contribute to many more future research in disaster risk reduction and management. GFDR members and the researchers from the Anthropology Department of the University of Delhi, has gained an invaluable experience through this study. Once again we would like to thank ADRC/IRP, for giving this opportunity.

New Initiatives/Partnerships

Opening of a new GFDR Office in Delhi:

On 21st April, 2010, a new office for GFDR was inaugurated in Delhi. The auspicious occasion was marked by a small ritual performance wherein all the members of GFDR were present. It was an exciting and joyous moment which signifies the progress made by GFDR since its inception.

It also reinforced GFDR's aspirations to move ahead steadily in achieving its goals and objectives.



Office inaugural rituals

With great pleasure, we would also like to let you know that GFDR shares office building with country office of Project Concern International (PCI), India. We feel privileged to share the working ambience with such a renowned organization, which have been working in the diverse areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support; polio eradication; water and sanitation; micro-enterprise and micro finance; humanitarian assistance and children at risk.



Office building of GFDR in Delhi

School Contact Program on 'Disaster Awareness: Safe School, Safe Community':

A school contact program was organized by Microdis team, Department of Anthropology, DU on 30th April, 2010 at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Keshavpuram, Delhi. The Microdis team under the able guidance of Prof. P C. Joshi has been working on various aspects of disaster related research.



Spreading awareness among school community

It was organized with the objective to create disaster awareness among the school children. GFDR also participated in the program and Ms. Victoria, Project Coordinator shared a presentation titled—**Disaster Risk Reduction in Schools.**



Ms. Victoria Devi, GFDR, at the School Contact Program

GFDR extends gratitude to the Microdis team for inviting to be part of the event.

Highlights of the most devastating disaster in India during the month of April 2010

Cyclone in Eastern parts of India:

The cyclone struck at the midnight of 14th April, 2010 in the states of West Bengal and Bihar, with winds of more than 100mph uprooting trees and snapping telephone and electricity lines. It demolished nearly 50,000 mud huts in West Bengal and thousands more in Bihar. The worst-hit villages in West Bengal were Hematabad, Raiganj and Kiran Dighi, where 39 bodies were recovered. Another 50 people were killed in the north-eastern Bihar districts of Araria, Kishanganj and Purnea.



Damaged huts at Asuragar village, West Bengal

Source: guardian.co.uk

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