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An Approach to Inclusive, Community-Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for the Asia Region

ADRA INTERNATIONAL AND ADRA ASIA

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The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Through an international network, ADRA delivers relief and development assistance to individuals in more than 130 countries—regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation, or religious association.



Adapting to Change

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has offices in 17 countries across Asia, the most disaster-prone region of the world. ADRA recognizes the importance and urgency of increasing resilience to disasters through an inclusive, integrated community-managed disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach with a common focus: reducing the vulnerability of communities and contributing to sustainable development.

Asia leads the global statistics on disaster-related economic losses and loss of human life, with seven of the ten disasters with the highest death toll since 1980 having occurred in Asia (ADB, 2013). In 2015, the Asia-Pacific region represented half of the total worldwide disasters, and over 70% of the deaths attributed to disasters.

With growing evidence of an increase in observed frequency and intensity of weather and climate-related hazards, ADRA takes the approach to integrate DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) in its work, easing

the burden on development programs and minimizing duplication of effort and redundancies. We recognize the threat of climate change and its disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable, and are committed to addressing climate change and helping communities adapt. Inclusive DRR addresses various forms of exclusion related to gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, economic status, age, ability, and geography. This approach is essential to addressing vulnerability in DRR.

ADRA's approach aligns with the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, to work towards a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health, and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, and communities.



There is no such thing as a 'natural' disaster, only natural hazards."

—UNISDR



COVER PHOTO: Community members identify local hazards in a mapping exercise led by ADRA Cambodia.

TOP PHOTO: ADRA staff and community members from Kalay, Myanmar, survey erosion damage where several homes collapsed into the river during unprecedented flooding in 2015.

ABOVE: Families in the Philippines received resilient livelihoods training and materials after losing their source of income during Typhoon Haiyan.





Mainstreaming DRR

ADRA in Asia coordinates a technical working group (TWG) on DRR and CCA in order to share best practices, improve DRR mainstreaming, and contribute to the achievement of the Sendai Framework goal: preventing new risk, reducing existing risk, and strengthening resilience. The TWG is made up of practitioners who are experienced with integrating risk reduction strategies into development projects and disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation programs. ADRA also participates in several national-level DRR working groups.

ADRA in Asia builds resilience capacity at regional, national, community, and household levels by integrating elements of emergency response, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across all sectors, including agriculture, livelihoods, WASH, and shelter. Some examples of these activities are provided below.

Improve Community Management of Disaster Risk

Inclusive community-managed disaster risk assessment, planning, and resource mobilization to improve preparedness, response, and recovery.

- ▶ ADRA India and ADRA Myanmar train households on disaster risk management and disaster preparedness through hazard, vulnerability, and capacity assessments to promote reflection and learning, mapping exercises, and capacity building of communities on DRR principles and disaster preparedness.

- ▶ ADRA Nepal uses the Result Oriented Leadership Development Program to build the leadership and management capacity of communities and institutions in order to better deal with hazards, including in hospitals and schools.
- ▶ ADRA Philippines trains local leaders in community-based DRR and on how to conduct DRR training for their local communities, to develop DRR plans and to take steps to prepare, prevent, mitigate, respond, recover, and rehabilitate when disaster strikes.

Resilient Communities and Livelihoods

Protect livelihoods and economic assets, and increase resilience of communities in the face of shocks and stressors.

- ▶ ADRA Laos provides training to ensure households are able to increase crop yields, adapt farming



ADRA Nepal leading emergency preparedness training.

methods, and diversify production to mitigate against hazards and extreme weather.

- ▶ ADRA Vietnam provides resilient sources of income through its livestock microcredit loans and technical training in animal husbandry and market-based economic development.

Structural Risk Reduction Measures

Integrate risk reduction measures into development programs and build back better during recovery programs.

- ▶ ADRA Sri Lanka constructs water pumps in areas where natural hazards will not affect the quality of water, and raised latrines in higher areas less prone to flooding.
- ▶ ADRA Bangladesh plants trees to protect streets and highlands from erosion, and builds raised roads to withstand flooding.
- ▶ ADRA Cambodia provides training in DRR analysis and planning to support communities to install more resilient WASH infrastructure.



ADRA Nepal uses street drama to illustrate the importance of disaster preparedness and how to follow village disaster management plans in case of fire, flood, or earthquake.



A community initiative to build water storage tanks in Vietnam helps protect against the effects of drought.



Learn more at ADRA.org and ADRAAsia.org