

2015-2016



Annual Progress Report

April 2015-March 2016

AADHAAR- An Association for Development, Harmony and Action Research

181A, Bhoorgaon, Panditwari II (near Lovely Market)

Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India

Ph-0135-2775900

Field Office: Vill. & P.O-Mahar, Tehsil- Devprayag, District-Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India

Registered office: A-12, Vasant Apartment, 181/9, Kishangarh (Opp. B-4), Vasant Kunj,
New Delhi-110070

Email: mailaadhaar@gmail.com **Web:** www.aadhaarind.com

Foreword

It is our pleasure to share with you, annual report of AADHAAR for the year 2015-2016. This year, we have been able to show case the Government of Uttarakhand and Municipality -Karanprayag, the importance of participatory planning in small and medium towns as a important step towards disaster resilient city development. Construction of a disaster resilient building technology park at Karanprayag is also an another step towards aware citizens and show case the techniques of disaster resilient constructions in the hills.

We acknowledge the resource support received from Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative-SEEDS, TERI, WTI, and most importantly, from Empathy Foundation (Mumbai).

Last but not the least, we appreciate our volunteers, supporters and governing board members for their support and guidance in our journey.

Neha Chaturvedi

President

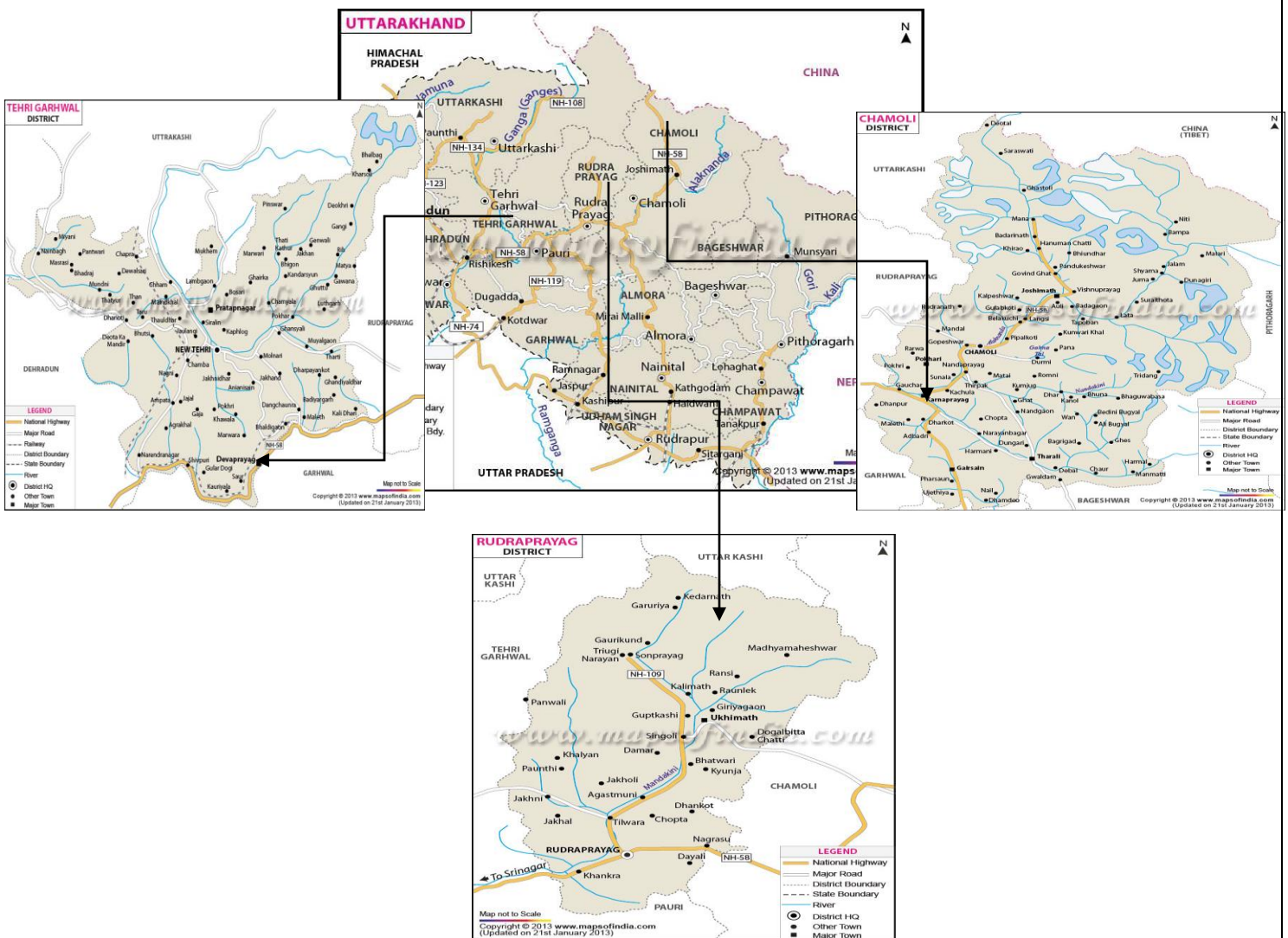
Kamleshwar Singh

Secretary

I. Background

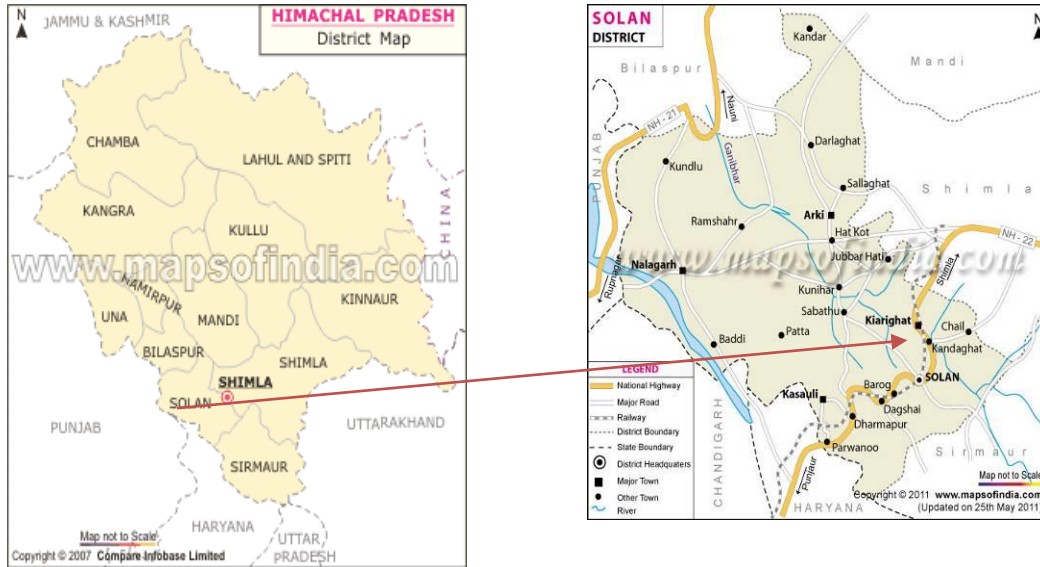
AADHAAR operational areas is spread in two north Indian states namely Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh since its inception in 2011 and the organization expanded its presence in the state of Uttarakhand from one district (Dist Tehri Garhwal) to three Districts in the year 2014-15. while it continues to work in one district in Himachal Pradesh namely in Dist Solan. Two new Districts where AADHAAR now has a presence in Uttarakhand include Dist Rudraprayag and Dist Chamoli.

Field sites in Uttarakhand:



Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/tehrigarhwal.htm>
Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/chamolil.htm>
Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/rudraprayag.htm>

Field site in Himachal Pradesh:



Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/himachalpradesh/districts/solan.htm>

II. AADHAAR's Programmes and Interventions in 2015-2016

In addition to the field intervention work underway in District Tehri Garhwal on the issue of environment and water conservation, new theme of disaster resilient city development were taken up in the year 2014-2015 and a city level participatory building byelaws were developed for Karanprayag town in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand in 2015-16. Annual report for the year 2015-2016 presents the highlights of AADHAAR's work under different themes. The report has been divided into four sections which are as follows:

1. Field based Interventions
2. Advocacy
3. Support to Civil Society
4. Liaison and Linkage Building

Section I Field based Intervention

1. District Tehri Garhwal

Since it's inception in early 2011, AADHAAR has been working in Gram Panchayat Mahar (Devprayag Block) where the focus of the work has been on *environment protection and water conservation with the involvement of the community*. This work had also supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai for one year by May 2014 under Project titled "Community Action for Sustaining Livelihood through Promoting Rain Water Management and Environmental Conservation". Activities under taken by AADHAAR this year without the active financial support form other donors were-

Strengthening and Supporting Self Help Groups

Training of self help groups was organised on the management aspects and their roles in the Panchayat development. Groups formed earlier were continuing with their own saving and providing loans to the members for their developmental needs and consumption purposes.

Health and Sanitation:

Derives for clean and safe hygiene practice: AADHAAR launched a drive to inform groups and villagers on the importance of sanitation and safe hygiene practices in the

Panchayat Mahar and other villages. AADHAAR also informed villagers about the safe drinking water and importance of collection and storage of rain water for the home and other purposes.

Horticulture and Agriculture Promotion:

Fruits plant especially mangos were also secured from the horticulture department and distributed among the villagers. Seeds of tomatoes and pees were distributed to few farmers to promote kitchen garden. Runners of grasses were also distributed.



2. District Rudraprayag

Post Disaster Reconstruction Initiative-Ensuring Quality Education

Rudraprayag was one of the worst affected districts during the June 2013, Kedarnath valley disaster which resulted in widespread loss to life and property across the district. Immediately after the disaster, AADHAAR was involved in relief work in District Uttarkashi and then involved in post disaster reconstruction in the state.

Under its education support, AADHAAR, in partnership with Empathy Foundation (Mumbai) had rebuilt two government Inter colleges namely GIC-Narayankoti and GIC- Paldwadi (Block Ukimath). In this initiative, AADHAAR's role was in designing the schools buildings keeping in mind disaster resilience norms and monitor the construction work and to coordinate with the Contractor. MoU between the State govt. and Empathy Foundation/AADHAAR was signed on April 15, 2014. The rebuilding work got underway in May 2014 and the construction (5 class rooms in each school and two complex of six bathrooms) work was completed in June 2015.

On 3rd July 2015, events were organized to handover the buildings of both the government inter colleges at Paldwari and Narayankoti, District Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand. This inaugural function was attended by the Empathy Foundation team which included Mr. Mitul Damani (Trustee, Empathy Foundation) Mr. Kheda (Trustee, Empathy Foundation) and Mr. Sundareswaran (CEO, Empathy Foundation) and Block Education Officer-Guptkashi. During the event cultural programmes were organized by the Colleges. In these event GIC administration and children besides the SMC members and the community interacted with the guest and extended their thank to the Empathy Foundation and AADHAAR to built their schools for the better future of their children.

Four computers were also donated to GIC Narayankoti to promote the computer and e-learning in the school.



3. District Chamoli

Disaster Resilience in Urban Areas of Uttarakhand

In the wake of 2013 disaster, ODRC with the support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation had initiated a project titled 'Building Resilience in Urban Areas of Uttarakhand'. Karnaprayag Township was identified to study the existing pattern of growth in urban

centers in the state from the perspective of disasters and to suggest viable corrective measures to minimize risks and vulnerability in the urban centers in the state.

Phase I of the project got underway in August 2013 where ODRC team members from People in Center (Ahmedabad) and Alchmey Urban Systems (Bangalore) were involved. During this phase, an assessment of the disaster vulnerability of Karnaprayag town was carried out and recommendations were made to the Municipality and the District Admn on what corrective measures need to be adopted to lower risk to life and property in the face of natural calamity. A detailed report on work done under Phase I was shared with the key stakeholders.

Phase II of the project developed on the basis of discussions with different stakeholders and recommendations made in Phase I. For Phase II, the following interventions were identified namely,

1. Drafting Byelaws for Karnaprayag Municipality and state level experience sharing for policy advocacy
2. Safe Construction Technology Demonstration Park at Karnaprayag for spreading awareness on safe construction practices in disaster prone areas.

To prepare the **participatory building bylaws considering the hazards and disaster risks**, AADHAAR team made regular visits in Nagar Palika Karnaprayag, District Magistrate and others concerned officials in Dist Chamoli. Series of Meetings were organised in wards with community members, councilors and the president Nagar Palika- Karnaprayag. A number of issues were discussed ranging from a need for better sewerage, parking facilities, need for night shelters etc. One of the important issues that came up was the need for better planning in the town, taking into account the vulnerabilities of the area. On the basis of discussions, a draft building bye-laws for Nagar Palika emerged and placed in the session of Nagar Palika for its approval.

A survey was also commissioned to know the awareness level of the city dwellers about the importance of building byelaws and their willingness to adopt it. Communities expectation from the byelaws was also mapped to prepare the participatory building bylaws which was adopted by the municipality.

Advocacy for Disaster Resilient Hill Cities Participatory Planning & Development:

To advocate the need of disaster resilience hill cities in the state and to share the experiences of the Karanprayag Town, A One day state level consultation on Planned Urban Development and Disaster Resilience was organized by ODRC-AADHAAR at

Mussorrie- Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA), Dehradun on April 17, 2015 with the support of Directorate of Urban Development, Govt of Uttarakhand.

The broad objective of the workshop was to inform and educate the elected representatives (Chairpersons) of Municipalities and Govt officials on the need for planned development in the emerging urban centers in the state of Uttarakhand. Given the vulnerability of the state to natural disasters and memories of the 2013 Kedarnath deluge still vivid, a need for systematic spatial growth is being increasingly felt. Large scale loss of life in Kedar valley has also been attributed to massive, unplanned construction that has become a common practice across the state. Although the state of Uttarakhand has its own set of Building Byelaws, there is negligible awareness among the local bodies about the same due to which, its implementation is weak across the state.

The participants included Chairpersons of the Urban Local Bodies (especially from the river towns of the Garhwal region), Govt officials (Executive Officers, Junior Engineers and SDM) besides representatives from NGOs. Urban local bodies that participated in the workshop include Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag, Srinagar, Gopeshwar, Chamoli, Gairsain, Ukimath, Harbertpur, Rishikesh, Kirtinagar, Pauri, Agastmuni, Nandprayag, Uttarkashi, Mussorrie, Doiwala, Gaucher, Pokhri, Joshimath, and Narendranagar.



There is a 4% increase in urban population in the state of Uttarakhand. Most of the urban population in the state is concentrated in cities like Dehradun, Haridwar, Kashipur, Rudrapur and Haldwani that are also important urban centers. This concentration of population has overburdened the existing infrastructure and civic amenities in these cities.

Also, with limited clear space for expansion of these townships (most of the open land is forest, river and hilly terrain), these cities need to plan their existing infrastructure in

“To cater to the needs of increasing population (civic amenities, water and transportation etc) in Uttarakhand which lies in under seismic zone 4 and 5, there is an urgent need to pursue planned city development with stricter implementation of the building byelaws. At the same time, earthquake resistant building construction practices need to be promoted.”

Kamleshwar Singh (ODRC-AADHAAR)

such a manner that they are able to cater to the challenges of population pressure.

In his Inaugural Address, Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram (IAS), Vice Chairperson (MDDA) stated that there is a great need to spread awareness among the community on disaster preparedness and management. Sharing his experiences while serving as District Magistrate, Uttarkashi, he mentioned the case of Varnavrat Parvat where a locality had to be relocated due to frequent landslide in the area. However, the relocation was not easy. People refused to move out of this location and it only after prolonged engagement/dialogue with the community that they could be convinced. He emphasized that community participation might be initially difficult but once informed and convinced, the community assists govt in its developmental efforts. Speaking about the building byelaws, he shared that these byelaws are not meant to

Key suggestions/points shared by Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram (IAS)

- Education and information sharing with citizen is the first step towards disaster resilience
- There is an need to develop a common understanding among the municipalities on Building Bye laws
- Building Byelaws should be demystified for common people
- Municipalities have the authority to develop their own building byelaws in accordance with the common framework provided by the Uttarakhand Building Byelaws.
- Municipalities should identify some minimum non-negotiable in Buildiconstruction practices

curtail the freedom of the common person as is the general perception. Instead, they are meant provide guidelines to people on how they can build safe houses for their families. If this message is understood well by the community, they would not resist or defy building byelaws.

Given the vulnerability of the state, he expressed the need to take this sensitization process forward across the entire state. He hoped that this workshop would be a good opportunity for the participants to develop common understanding on the existing building



to



byelaws in the state as well as to learn from grassroots experience sharing as some of the participants were from regulated townships.

a non-negotiable and non-permissible.

Detailed presentation was made by Mr. S.K Pant, Senior Town Planner on the provisions of the Building Byelaws.

(Annexure II: Building Byelaws in Uttarakhand). He shared that Uttarakhand Building Byelaws (2011) provide the overall framework on construction norms in the state. However, the State Municipality Act (Clause 298, List I) also empowers the Municipalities to draft their own byelaws but within the ambit of the Uttarakhand Building Byelaws (2011).

There was a general consensus among the participants that the municipalities should have the power to draft their own byelaws taking into account their respective needs and requirements. However, a need was expressed for a general framework that would guide them in the drafting of their byelaws. To this point, Mr. Pant shared that the Uttarakhand Building Byelaws (2011) are meant to serve as the guiding framework for the local bodies and should be used by the municipalities to draft their respective byelaws.

Elected Representative present shared that *despite 74th Constitutional Amendment, govt hesitates to devolve rights to the local bodies due to capacity concern. This has resulted in ineffective implementation of the building byelaws. A demand for single window system under the umbrella of Urban Local Bodies was raised.* At the same time, it was felt that if any Urban Local Body in the state takes initiative and emerges as a model before the dept, it would help in confidence building for transferring more powers to the local bodies.

Another concern raised was in regard to lack of awareness among people on the change in status of their area from unregulated to a regulated town area.

The issue of Rajeev Awas Yojna (RAY) was also raised which talks about specific land area requirement for construction of house. The participants shared that it **would be difficult to implement the scheme in the state of Uttarakhand and suggested that the state should make specific recommendations to the central govt so that hill specific issues are addressed** under RAY

Shri Subhash Gairola (President, Nagar Palika Karnapraya) shared about the work that has taken place in Karnaprayag town with the support of ODRC-AADHAAR. He shared the process of drafting building byelaws emerged from the recommendations made in that report. Byelaws that were drafted for the Municipality have recently been adopted.

He also stated that the real challenge lies in effective implementation of the byelaws. He emphasized on generating awareness among the community in the regulated areas as lack of awareness creates confusions and conflicts. People need to be assured that the byelaws would not be retrospectively implemented and would not apply to previous constructions.



The last technical session in the workshop was on the role of Municipalities and Disaster preparedness. Speaking on the need for effective legal provisions, Dr. Piyoosh Rautela, Executive Director (Disaster Management and Mitigation Center) pointed that lack of awareness about sound construction practices and site selection for construction, debris disposal due to infrastructure development and urbanization, poor drainage system in the urban areas etc are making human beings more vulnerable to disasters in the hills. He expressed the need for better coordination between Urban Local Bodies and the Disaster Management Center as local support is indispensable in the time of natural calamity.

Construction of Karnashila Disaster Resilience Building Technology Park, Karnaprayag

Karnashila Technology Park was set-up with the purpose of spreading awareness about safe construction practices in disaster prone hill areas using traditional construction technology that makes use of locally available material. Mr. R.K Mukarji (TARN, Dehradun) was entrusted with the task of constructing the Technology Park. The land in the main town (adjoining river Alaknanda) was allotted by the municipality for the construction of the park. The work on the technology site has started from the last week of February 2015 and completed in June 2015. A number of live models were constructed to display the various aspects (foundation, plinth, lintel, slab etc) of building construction and also a 10X10 feet model room was built to display the disaster resilient building technologies in the park for the common citizen and as well masons.





On 18/06/2015, a small event was organised on the occasion of inaugural of the Technology Park. The event was attended by the Counselors, Officials and few residents of Karanprayag. Inauguration was done by the Mr. Subhash Gairola, President, M.C-Karanprayag. Mr. R.K Mukarji introduced and briefed about the models displayed in the park. This event was also captured by the Newspapers personnel -AmarUjala, Sahara, E TV, t.v 100, and Sahara T.V etc for mass awareness.



Celebration of International Disaster Reduction Day at Karanashila Technology Park

On the occasion of the International Disaster Reduction Day (Oct 13, 2015), a half day event was organized by ODRC-AADHAAR at Karnashila Technology Park, Karnaprayag. This Technology park has been built by ODRC-AADHAAR with the support of Karnaprayag Nagar Palika (financial support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation) in early 2015.

The event aimed at generating awareness among the participants on the relevance of International Disaster Reduction Day, the need for disaster awareness and preparedness as well as to inform them about the objective behind developing the Technology park and its relevance for the hilly state. It was shared with the gathering that construction technology used in building the model structures at Karnashila could be used for building houses and other construction in the eco-sensitive zone like Uttarakhand.



About 25 people from all walks of life attended the event. Govt officials who attended the event included the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Mr. Vivek Prakash, and Mr. R. S Negi (Assistant Engineer, PWD) besides Mr. Subhash Gairola (President, Karnaprayag Municipality). People from academia also attended the event.

Key Issue Discussed

- Uttarakhand lies in an eco-sensitive zone and thus, people need to be more aware and informed about natural disasters and disaster preparedness.
- Natural disasters cannot be prevented but with better planning and planned development, the damages caused can be reduced. Likewise, there is a need to understand how man-made disasters can be reduced and the loss of life and property that results out of these disasters. Construction practices in the hill state do not follow any norms and are dangerous.
- People do not take necessary approvals for constructing buildings and Nagar Palika does not have any information about how the building was constructed. These buildings are usually not safe and pose a threat during any emergency. Construction in streams that have gone dry is a common practice in the hills but these are very unsafe buildings especially during the rainy season. Building byelaws need to be framed and strictly implemented by the Nagar Palika.
- Local technology that was earlier used for construction in Uttarakhand using locally available material was earth quake resistant and in line with the local geological situation of the state.
- The Technology Park showcases how earth quake resistant construction can be done using locally available construction material. Models built in the park demonstrate techniques of construction for earth quake proof buildings and different models represent different component of construction.

- Karnashila Technology Park is probably one of its kind of park in north India and the purpose is to inform and educate people on these safe construction practices. It is therefore important that people be informed and made aware about the technology park which they should visit.

Skill Development of Masons on Disaster resilient building construction technologies

Two skill development Training programmes were organised in November 2015 and March 2016 at Karanshila Technology Park for the masons involved in construction in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand . Around 50 Masons were Trained on the various aspects of safe/disaster resilient building construction. Major topics were covered were

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- *Types of the disasters and its impacts on buildings and life*
- *Inputs on common mistakes in building construction specific to Uttarakhand*
- *Inputs on safe construction of load bearing buildings in Uttarakhand*
- *(Demo)in site training by modeling the load bearing building at technology park site in Karanprayag*
- *Detailing of models displayed in the technology park.*
- *Class rooms sessions on do and don'ts for safe construction etc*



Support to Civil Society Organisations

Organizational Management Training of SARAS Protection Committees, Wildlife Trust of India

Training was facilitated for the community members engaged in protection of SARAS **Crain** in five districts of Uttar Pradesh under the WTI project. This training was organised in Gorakhpur from 6th of July, 2015 and ended on 12th of July. Neha Chaturvedi and Kamleshwar Singh facilitated the trainings. The objectives of the training were- To finalize the Rules and Byelaws of SARAS Protection Committees at District Level and SARAS Protection Committees at Village Level and To provide comprehensive training to Elected Representatives of SPCs on Group Management. A



manual was also prepared for SARAS Protection Committees with the aim that manual would serve as hands-on tool for the members to guide them about their roles and responsibilities. The manual has information on the roles and responsibilities of committees, their importance, executive and general body members of committees, committees meetings, audit, amendments to the bye laws, annual reports etc.

Household Survey for conducting Baseline Assessment towards the Monitoring and Evaluation of the IWMP works-Bageshwar, TERI, New Delhi

AADHAAR had undertaken a household survey for conducting baseline assessment towards the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) works being carried out in Bageshwar District of Uttarakhand, for TERI, New Delhi in August to October 2015. TERI has undertaken this project entitled 'Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Documentation (MEL&D) of projects under IWMP for Batch II, III and IV projects' from Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand.

The 37 project villages were selected by the AADHAAR by keeping in mind Ridge, Middle and Valley locations of the Gram Panchayats / Villages and 1030 households were surveyed. AADHAAR did conduct rigorous data validation of the collected data at various intervals during the entire process of data collection and data entry such as validation by the Field Supervisor, Random check also done by the secretary

AADHAAR during the data collection and check before data entry and TERI staff had also randomly checked the data in the field.

Understanding Gender – Staff Orientation and Training for Field Workers Sehgal Foundation, Gurgaon, 4-6 November,2015

A three days training was facilitated by Neha Chaturvedi and Sheeba Chowdhary for the core project staff at Sehgal Foundation on 4th Nov. and field staff on 5-6 November, 2015 on Gender and Gender Responsive planning and Budgeting.

The topics covered during the day were as under:

- Understanding of Gender
- Definitions of different gender terminologies, gender equality, gender equity, gender mainstreaming, gender empowerment and emerging trends around the globe
- Group work on the list of Gender Indicators – Pre-determined Groups (in consultation with the CEO and Director, Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships) were given documents pertaining to the Good Rural Governance Program (Program Overview and Annual Plan) and asked to look at their center goals, objectives, projects and expected outcomes and reflect on whether the indicators in the Gender Checklist (developed by the foundation) were in sync with these or needed to be worked on.

Liaison and Linkage Building

Workshop on Panchayati Raj and Migration at SBMA, Anjanisain, Tehri Garhwal

Kamleshwar Singh, Secretary AADHAAR, attended the workshop on the occasion of Swami Manmathan Anniversary at Sri Bhubneshwari Mahila Ashram ,Anjanisain from 6 to 7th April, 2015. The event was also attended by the state chairperson of ruling congress party and sitting M.L.As and other P.R representatives. Kamleshwar Singh presented the status of devolution in the Uttarakhand and advocate for the need of P.R Act of Uttarakhand for effective devolution and service delivery.

Orientation Program on Building Urban Climate Change Resilience

Neha Chaturvedi, President AADHAAR attended the orientation programme being organised by the TERI and Directorate of Urban development, Govt of Uttarakhand on 8-10 April 2015 at Pacific Hotel, Dehradun. The focus of the programme was on climate change and its impact on the cities and challenges and opportunities for building resilience in cities.

Workshop on Water Access and Availability in Mountain Areas of Upper Ganga (HIAWARE) project

Secretary AADHAAR attended the workshop on water access and availability in mountain area's especially in the upper Ganaga basin on 4th of December, 2015. He appraised the participants and organisers (CEDAR, TERI & ICMOD) about the water access and issues related to it especially in Devrayag, Tehri Garhwal.

Workshop on Springs, Lives and Livelihoods (Blue Bonus)

Secretary AADHAAR attended the two-day state level advocacy workshop on *Springs, Lives and Livelihoods* (Blue Bonus) on the 15th to the 16th of December 2015, at Hotel Aketa, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, organised by Himmotthan, Dehradun. The workshop Emphasized upon the vitality of springs for livelihoods, in the Himalayan region. Deliberations was focused on bridging science and practice to inform policy, programs and processes in the context of springshed development across Uttarakhand.

Translating Global Frameworks to Frontline Resilience Action-workshop on India's Implementation of Global Frameworks and Role of CSOs

Secretary AADHAAR attended the workshop on global frame works and role of CSOs in resilience action, organised by SEEDS New Delhi, on 12th January, 2016 at India International Centre, New Delhi. Workshop emphasised on the role of Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR) and in exploring gaps in building resilience. Recognition of these gaps is resonating at the global policy level. In a major shift from past patterns, the post- 2015 global frameworks have made concerted efforts to look at broader issues of risk and built in inter-linkages to each other. Of the three major frameworks signed between March and December 2015, each has its own focus area. The Sendai Framework looks at disaster risk reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at development issues and the Paris Agreement at climate change. Yet, all three have cross-references, and issues of underlying risks and cross-cutting problems feature more prominently. This is a very positive step towards building community resilience and demands concentrated affords form CSOs .