



# Empowered communities mobilise government funds

to increase their flood safety

Location:

Bihar

Partners:

Caritas India

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Mr Achhelal Padean, DRR committee member in Booktha village, Bihar.

Photo credit: Marlou Geurts/Netherlands Red Cross



Women community members in Booktha village, Bihar

Photo credit: Marlou Geurts/Netherlands Red Cross.

*All villages in India should develop and implement DRR plans, as it really has changed our lives in a positive way: our experiences should be replicated!*

*Mr Achhelal Padean,  
DRR committee  
member in Booktha*

**Booktha is a village in Bihar state in India, and one of the villages where PfR India is active. During the first phase of PfR villagers conducted a hazard, vulnerability and capacity mapping, based on which a risk analysis was done. The risk analysis provided the basis for the Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plan, consisting of a contingency plan for better flood preparedness, and a village development plan aiming at reducing the disaster risk. The communities themselves now monitor, update and implement these DRR action plans.**

An important step is that these DRR action plans are being discussed and approved in the Gram Sabha village meetings and that they become part of the panchayat (local) government planning. Panchayat leaders then have a strong instrument to engage in conversations at the municipal level, where funding decisions are taken. With the help and training of PfR, different government schemes and subsidies could be mobilised for the implementation of both household and community DRR measures, which in the past people could not even imagine.



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Woman explaining a village risk map in Bihar, India.  
Photo credit: MarlouGeurts/Netherlands Red Cross

Funds have been mobilised for housing, elevating entrances, sanitation, roads, better seeds, organic farming, fruit trees, digging or rejuvenation of ponds, introduction of fishing, and embankment construction.

*'For any new development in our village, we now first consider the possible risks and make sure that planned investments are risk proof'*

*Local Booktha villager*

When asking villagers about the most significant change, they all answered the same: 'the village is well organised now, and we have learnt how to approach the government and how to access funding for our DRR Action Plans'.

Mr Achhelal Padean, DRR committee member in Booktha, recommended: 'all villages in India should develop and implement DRR plans, as it really has changed our lives in a positive way: our experiences should be replicated!'

