

RESILIENCE IN NORTH AND SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL

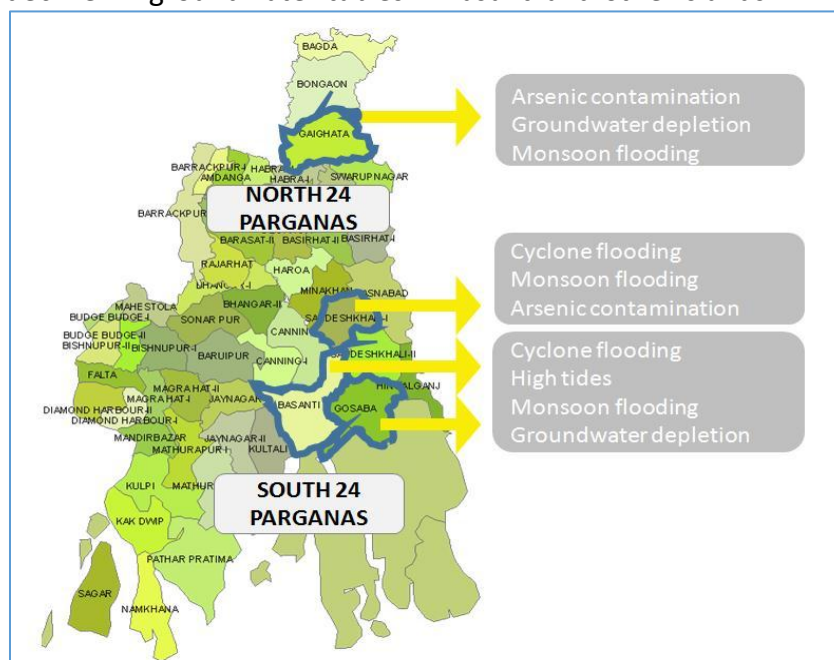
PREPAREDNESS FOR FUTURE WATER RELATED DISASTERS

By

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During the relief work carried out by JGVK during cyclone Aila (2009), it became apparent that Sundarban is not well prepared for that kind of natural disasters. JGVK proposed UBU, Denmark for the cooperation of the new project that included management of flood risks from cyclones and monsoon rainfalls. The project ideas have been developed at workshops in October 2011 and February 2013 with participation of women from several SHGs and CBOs from North and South 24 Parganas. It was decided to include two other natural water resource problems; an expansion of the work on arsenic mitigation to block level and investigations of the problem of the decline in groundwater tables in Basanti and other islands.



Project area and problems

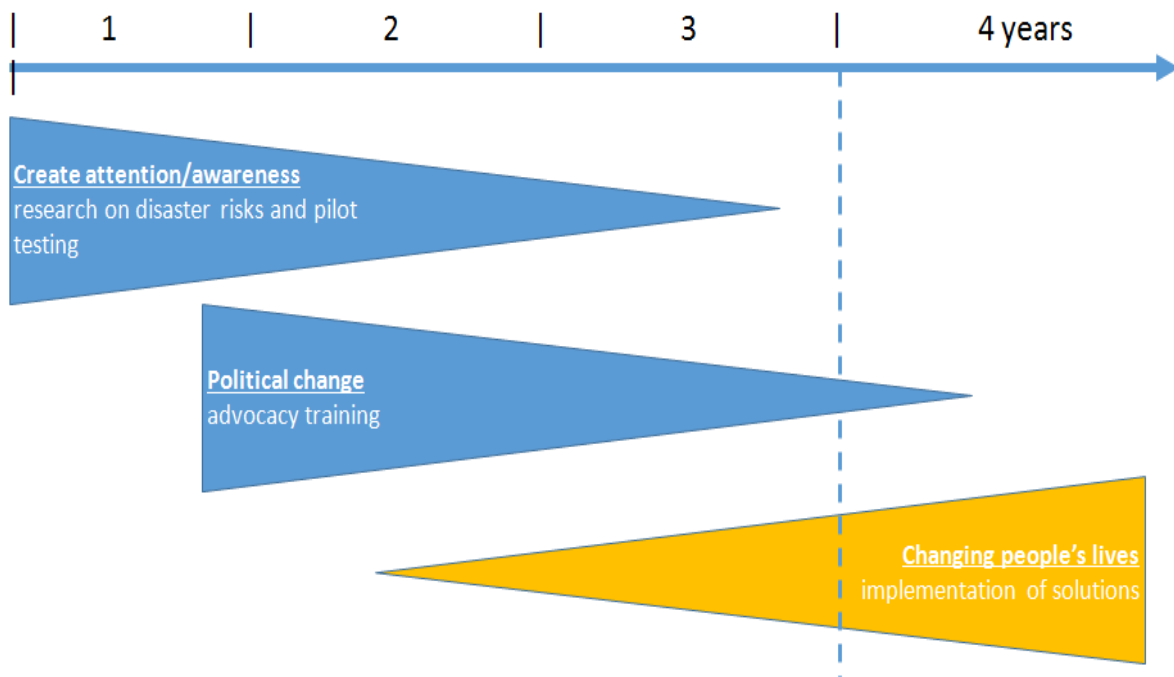
Objective:

1. The project partners and the local population in the project areas understand the reasons for flooding and groundwater depletion and have identified appropriate preparedness actions in common.
2. The civil society organizations in North and South-24-Parganas are capable of using advocacy towards the local government for implementation of solutions for floods, groundwater depletion and arsenic exposure.
3. Selected communities in North and South-24-Parganas have implemented disaster risk mitigation plans, including e.g. flood preparedness for cyclones and monsoon rains, arsenic exposure reduction and measures against groundwater depletion.

Output:

1. Basic descriptions in English and Bengali of the disasters in West Bengal, their root causes, consequences, solutions.
2. Materials distributed to GP, Block and District.
3. Project organized meetings in the project area with participation from Block and District people.
4. Project staff and VCs work consciously with advocacy.
5. Disaster Risk Mitigation plans written by VCs in a number of GPs.
6. Disaster Risk Mitigation plans in a number of GPs approved by the Block and district.
7. Disaster Risk Mitigation Plans implemented actions and constructions.
8. School children are aware of the project issues.

Strategy:



Institutional Setup:

Country	Organization	District	Block	CBO
Denmark	UBU			
India	Joygopalpur			
	Gram Vikash Kendra		South 24 Parganas	Basanti Joygopalpur Gram Vikash Kendra
				Gosaba Annesya for Science
				Sreema Matri Tirtha Mahila Samity
				Kalidshpur Banani Society
			North 24 Parganas	Sandeshkhali Bermajur Gram Vikash Kendra
				Gaighata Kishalaya Taruntirtha

DISASTER

Disaster (D)

Exposure to damaging event

Risk (R)

The probability of harmful consequences

Vulnerability (V)

physical, social, economical and environmental factors, which increase susceptibility to impact of hazards.

$$D = R \times V$$

Capacity (C)

Strengths and resources available that can reduce the level of risk, or the effects of a disaster.

Disasters are social, not environmental phenomena

Disasters are about people and their reactions to environmental phenomena.

If an environmental phenomena neither impacts nor worries people...

It is just an environmental event...

Not a disaster

The disaster cycle

