

Case Study: 1

Urban community based micro resilience model of ward exposed to climate and hydro-meteorological risks

(Dec 1st 2010 to Dec 30th 2013) (On going project)

Lead Institution:

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group

Partner Institutions:

City Steering Committee and Municipal Ward Committees



Improved sanitation is both about behavior change and efficient services and systems

City Resilience Strategy provided intervention framework to identify climate change risks and vulnerability of communities in Gorakhpur. Drinking water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste and health systems and services in city fail very often under climate stressed conditions. Large numbers of municipal wards are flooded and become unlivable for several months during rains. Community based micro resilience model of ward exposed to climate change impacts uses people's wisdom and participation to improve systemic efficiency to minimize vulnerability of residents. Community based groups organize regular meetings, prepares monthly plan, implement and monitor municipal services. Groups and citizens forum demands for conservation of water bodies and open spaces. Significant improvement is achieved in solid waste management, drainage and drinking water supply to households.

Project Components:

Analysis of historic climate data and projection studies point towards enhanced climate change risks and related vulnerability of residents of Gorakhpur. City Resilience Strategy (CRS) identified key sectors to be impacted by climate change. Project components designed to address potential climate risks of city are:

- a. Develop functional model of climate resilient municipal ward
- b. Capacitate and strengthen stakeholders in other municipal wards to replicate learning
- c. Advocate for mainstreaming of resilience planning in development plans of government

Project Implementing Approach:

Project relies on multi-tier and multi-pronged approach to address individual as well ward level problems of Municipal services and systems. Behavior change and community institution building are more at local level while at city level demonstration and advocacy are predominant approaches.

- a. Intervene to address sphere of influence (people and their organization) to address sphere of concerns (infrastructure/system)
- b. Gap and vulnerability analysis and monitor change
- c. Review rules and regulations to address policy implementation gaps

Key Achievements:

- 1) Community institutions at ward level organize monthly meetings, prepare monthly action plans and monitor implementation of plans and services of municipal corporation
- 2) 960 (80%) households of ward are directly participating in solid waste management. Revenue collected from over 40.1% households recovering almost 40.6% cost on investment from local collections and sale proceeds.
- 3) Connectivity of individual drains with municipal drains increased by 65% at beginning of intervention. 1020 (85%) houses have access to municipal drains.
- 4) Water quality testing led to 40% increase in new piped water connection from Municipal Corporation. Total 89% households access piped water supply of Municipal Corporation or have access to improved source of drinking water supply.
- 5) 100% residents received access to all weather road
- 6) Drain construction, maintenance and supply of safe drinking water have been taken as two major thrusts by Municipal Corporation of Gorakhpur.

Lessons Learnt:

- 1) Ward level committees are excellent political instruments for fixing accountability of elected representatives and functionaries.
- 2) Capacity and functioning of systems could be significantly improved by participation of people in development activities
- 3) People are willing to pay for quality services be that come from government or private companies
- 4) Coordination of wards and zonal plans is crucial for resilience of systems and services in wards
- 5) Decentralized planning and development has more strengths than limitations. It is also important for community awareness

Organisation Details:

ACCCRN was launched in 2008 and is funded by The Rockefeller Foundation as part of their 9-year initiative aimed at building Climate Change Resilience. Climate change resilience is the capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function at an acceptable level. Simply, it is the ability to survive, recover from, and even thrive in changing climatic conditions. ACCCRN works at the nexus of climate change, vulnerable and poor communities, and urbanization.

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group is non-profit organization established in 1975. It seeks to build public consciousness on environment, ecological agriculture and livelihoods. Organization has served communities affected by disasters, social inequality and injustices. Email.: geagindia@gmail.com

