

# NGOs role in Disaster Management

Kosi Flood 2008  
Experience of SSVK



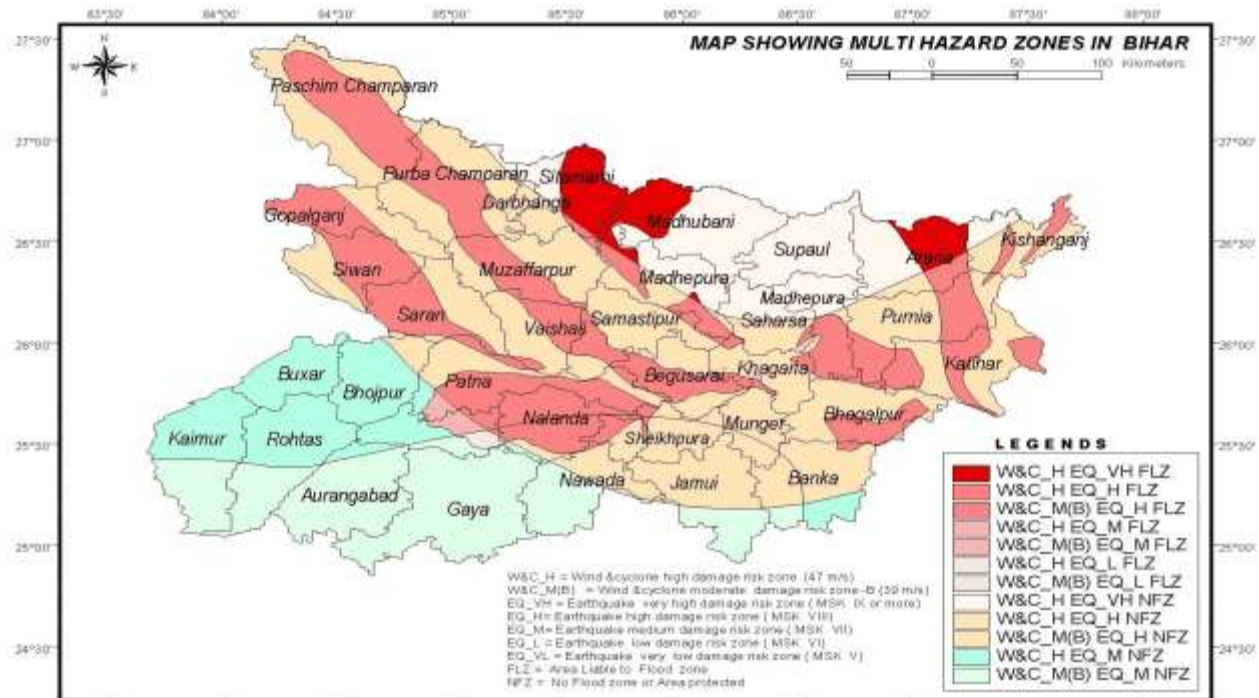
# SSVK – An Introduction

- Inception: inspired by JP Movement, transition from journalistic activism to developmental activism
- Vision: establishment of an egalitarian society devoid of any kind of discrimination and exploitation and allowing the collective flowering of human potential for humane ends
- Mission: to effectively empower the socially, economically and politically marginalised through their conscientisation, mobilisation and organisation around issues impinging on their development to ensure their equitable participation in the societal mainstream.
- Strategy: A harmonious blend of the twin approaches of activism/struggle and development.

# Disaster Context of Bihar

- 17 % of the country's Flood area in Bihar
- Frequent Droughts
- High wind velocity in most parts
- Quite often hailstorms
- Boat capsize
- Recurrent village fires in summer months
- Cold wave
- Earthquake Zone-IV & V with some districts of North Bihar as vulnerable as Bhuj and Kashmir

# Multi Hazard Map of Bihar



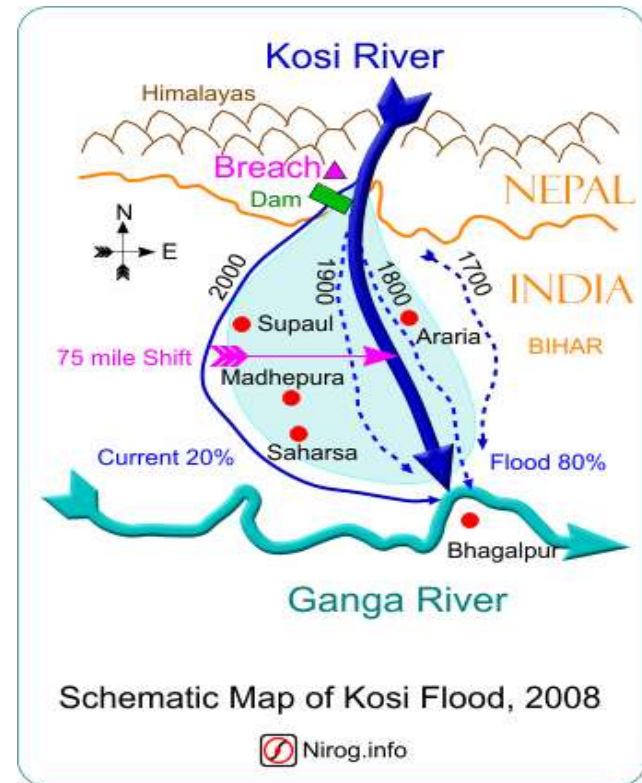
Disclaimer: This map was collated based on the data/information compiled by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, UNDP has not verified the accuracy of information of the Map Source: BMTPC, India

# Factors precipitating floods in North Bihar Plains

- Heavy rainfall, both in the upper and lower, catchments of the north Bihar river systems namely, the Ghaghra, the Gandak, the Burhi Gandak, the Adhwara group of rivers, the Bagmati, the Kamla Balan, the Kosi and the Mahananda
- Reduced channel capacity of these rivers due to heavy sedimentation
- Shifts in river courses due to their aggrading beds
- Shifts in river courses eroding embankments and causing breaches
- Volumetric build up of water within the embanked area causing breaches in the embankments
- Shifting flows finding their way out through the unplugged breaches in the embankment
- Excessive flow through the breaches leading to revival of dead channels which have added to the outreach of flood waters
- Breaches in overflowing irrigation canals further compounding the problem.
- With Ganga in spate and into which all these rivers drain, flooding by these rivers is compounded due to the backwash effect

# Kosi Flood of 2008

- Precipitated by a breach in the left embankment of Kosi at Kusaha upstream from Indo-Nepal border
- River picked up a channel it had abandoned over 200 years ago, drowning towns and numerous villages coming in the way of its newly acquired course & affecting more than 3 million people.
- This altered course now cut through an area which ever since the construction of the eastern Kosi Embankment almost 5 decades ago had lived in the relative comfort of being flood protected.



# Kosi Flood of 2008: A Glimpse



# Impact

**Bihar Flood As On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 ( Affected Details) Source- Bihar Govt.**

Sl. No..	Activities	Supaul	Madhepura	Araria	Saharsa	Purnea	Total
1	No. of Block affected	5	11	4	6	9	35
2	No. of Panchayats Affected	65	140	71	59	77	412
3	No. of Villages Affected	178	370	141	169	140	993
4	Population Affected	670709	1419856	626062	448796	164000	3329423
5	No. of Families Affected	167526	374798	140895	114471	41645	839335
6	Livestock affected	417704	303640	80000	161000	35000	997344
7	Area Affected (Lac Ha)	0.75	1.57	0.45	0.44	0.47	3.68
8	No. of House Damage	80696	114545	8773	25045	7562	222754
9	No. of Persons Evacuated	370000	335110	107937	115945	65000	993992
10	No. of Human Death	211	272	2	41	1	527
11	No. of Livestock Death	8585	10725	0	13	0	19323



# SSVK's Understanding of Disasters

- An exponential increase in human and material losses from disaster events in the past few decades with no clear evidence of increase in the frequency of extreme hazard events
- Rise in disasters and their consequences thus related to the rise in the vulnerability of people and induced by the human determined path of development.
- Vulnerability generated by social, economic and political processes that influence how hazards affect people in varying ways and with differing intensities.
- Extent of vulnerability determined by how strong or weak people's livelihoods are, how good is their access to a range of assets that provide the basis for their livelihood strategy and how useful different institutions are in providing social protection
- These aspects determined by the social, economic and political systems that reflect the power relations in a given society which in turn determine the distribution of safety and vulnerability in society.
- By implication recipients of both disaster and development are increasingly becoming one and the same, usually the poorest and the weakest groups. within the developing countries

# Disaster Centric Interventions of SSVK

- Emergency relief operations involving provision of food, safe drinking water and temporary shelters, extension of medical assistance and provision of boats for facilitating movement of the marooned
- Rehabilitative efforts involving reconstruction of damaged settlements and restoration of livelihoods
- Diversification of livelihood support base
- Strengthening community level coping mechanisms through organisation building and institutional development and promotion of grain banks and contingency fund reserves (gram kosh) amidst affected communities
- Building community capacities to act as first responders in the event of floods
- Networking with all relevant stakeholders around a shared perspective, towards addressing the issue of Bihar floods at all the levels of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Advocacy centred initiatives geared towards addressing the root causes of the flooding problem, galvanizing state response and inclusion of the most marginalized in the relief and recovery operations initiated by the various stakeholders, including the government.

## SSVK's initiatives in Kumarkhand and Murliganj blocks of Madhepura district and Paterghat block of Saharsa district in the aftermath of Kosi Floods

- Provision of dry ration and cooked meal support with utensils (beneficiaries-120500 OneLacTwenty Thousand Five Hundred)
- Provision of shelter (7632 Polythene sheets)
- Provision of blankets (7500)
- Provision of safe drinking water (176 Hand pumps)
- Provision of medical relief and assistance (9769 Patients served)
- IFA supplementation for pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls. (664 Beneficiaries)
- Vitamin A supplementation for children in the age group 9 months to 5 years. (1405 Children)
- Setting up of child friendly centres at the relief camps (15 Centers: 2649 Children beneficiaries)
- Restoration of off farm livelihoods (1038 Beneficiaries)
- Advocacy initiatives for inclusion of the dalits in the relief programmes

# SSVK Interventions



# Strategic Highlights

- Multi Stakeholder engagement –INGOs, Corporates, Multilaterals and wider civil society
- Strong network of grassroots volunteers Lok shakti Sangathan (LSS)
- Community involvement
- Enlisting the support of the representatives of local governance
- Transparency and Accountability
- A pre-designed system for reaching out to the really vulnerable
- Addressing the needs of the particularly vulnerable groups like infants, children, adolescents, pregnant women, lactating mothers and the socially marginalised

# Lessons Learnt – mostly as key questions

- Outreach versus Standards dichotomy
- Greater institutionalization of disaster response/ role of NGOs
- Stake holder coordination – possibilities and challenges
- Possibilities of Operational Flexibility
- The imperative of DRR – Possibilities for its redressal
- Institutionalisation of experience sharing/cross learning processes
- Resource constraints for the `linking relief, rehabilitation and development approach`

# SSVK Rehabilitation Interventions



# Long Way Ahead

SSVK, Patna



SSVK, Patna





# Long Way Ahead



Sl. No.	Name of the Beneficiary	Age	Sex	Signature	Remarks
1	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...	...

## Workshop on "Preparedness & Response for Emergencies held at Patna on 28th April, 2010

This paper was presented By SSVK Secretary Mr. Deepak Bharti on a

- Workshop on "Preparedness & Response for Emergencies at Times of Natural Disaster" on 28th April, 2011 at Chanakya Hotel Patna Organised by Corporate Disaster Resource Network (CDRN) Under the Auspices of National Disaster Management Authority of India An Initiatives of CSO Partners & admatrix Supported by ICICI Foundation.

*Thanks*