

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)⁶⁵

Title of initiative:	Disaster Risk Mitigation: Potential of Micro Finance for Tsunami Recovery
Countries primarily supported:	India
Duration:	From 1 September 2005 to 31 December 2006

Objectives

Microfinance is one of the tools that can reduce the suffering of people and alleviate the tsunami recovery. In addition to relief or compensation, financial services enable the poor among victims to accelerate their recovery and diversify their livelihoods with more productive sources of income. Major objectives of the initiative were:

- Use the existing knowledge and experiences in microfinance to see if it can be adapted to the tsunami recovery and future disasters;
- Increase public awareness and wider access to information on microfinance writing a comprehensive publication on the subject;
- Promote microfinance at national and community level.

The expected outcomes were:

- A International workshop in New Delhi on the potential of Microfinance for Tsunami Recovery;
- Publish newsletter and disseminate the experiences;
- A National Campaign to promote microfinance.

Achievements

- **A Round table in New Delhi on the potential of micro finance for Tsunami recovery**
 - A two-day workshop “ Disaster Risk Mitigation: Potential of Micro Finance for Tsunami Recovery” was organized by AIDMI in New Delhi in October 2005 in partnership with the UN/ISDR and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), the Government of India.
 - The workshop was attended by more than 70 participants including representatives from the national and state government of India and experts from a diverse range of professional fields from different countries including Bangladesh, India, Japan, Philippines and Sri Lanka.
 - It provided a platform for the launch of a global debate on how microfinance can reduce the impact of disasters. This is the first time that the concepts of microfinance and disaster risk reduction have been addressed concurrently. The focus was on the potential use of microfinance in the Tsunami recovery.
- **Publication of a report on micro finance in the tsunami affected countries**
 - A publication of a research study, “Application of Microfinance for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tsunami Recovery”, has been produced to summarize the presentations made during the above-mentioned international workshop. The publication provided perspectives and experiences of microfinance and risk reduction from a variety of operational levels from six tsunami-affected countries in South Asia and Southeast Asia, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia.
 - A hardcover, 225-page book entitled “Micro-Finance and Disaster Risk Reduction - Proceedings of International Workshops on Disaster Risk Mitigation: Potential of Micro-Finance for Tsunami Recovery, New Delhi, 14-15 October 14-15, 2005” was published.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ www.southasiadisasters.net

⁶⁶ <http://www.akhilbooks.com/frmsingleproductDet.aspx?id=12883>

- A special issue of AIDMI's newsletter "southasiadisasters.net" entitled "Disaster Risk Mitigation: Potential of Micro Finance for Tsunami Recovery" (Special Issue 7, 14 October 2005, English) was published.⁶⁷

➤ **National Campaign to promote microfinance**

- Posters and leaflets were developed and distributed in different areas of the country in local languages during the month of June-July 2006. The AIDMI together with other partners helped to convey messages of promoting and disseminating microfinance in India.
- Audio-visual material has been compiled for production and dissemination. One or two short video messages will be produced to be broadcast on local and national TV and radio networks. The AIDMI will look for the support of the Indian Government to launch a broader campaign on the issue.



Photo 9: AIDMI team discussed about flood measures



Photo 10: Planning of rehabilitation



Photo 11: AIDMI discussed needs and support in the village Singarathopu

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⁶⁷ The newsletter is available at: http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2005/events/iddr-india-workshop.pdf