



**SOLIDARITÉS
INTERNATIONAL**

OUR EXPERTISE

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)



In the past ten years, over 250 million people have been affected by natural disasters, whether sudden (floods, earthquake) or slow onset (drought), and 95% of them live in developing countries¹. Natural disasters marginalise the most vulnerable, threaten their livelihoods, and may also cause or exacerbate conflict. In light of this situation, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL has incorporated Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in its areas of intervention. Based on its analysis of local needs and capacities, SI can thus contribute to disaster preparedness, mitigation and prevention.

At the institutional level, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL works within the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 - 2015², designed to strengthen the resilience of communities and nations to disasters. As a member of the network of French NGOs working in DRR, SI has contributed to the development of the new framework for action 2015-2025, and is an active advocate for the integration of DRR in humanitarian programmes.

¹ | *Position paper on Disaster Risk Reduction, Solidarités International, 2011.*

² | *The framework was developed by the UNISDR, the Secretariat of the United Nations for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, created in 1999.*

STAGE 1

AFTER A DISASTER, REBUILD MORE SUSTAINABLY

When infrastructures have been destroyed by a cyclone or earthquake, sustainable rebuilding strategies should be included from the initial emergency response phase onward. Infrastructure rehabilitation must be based on the analysis of future risks, and use materials and technologies that can reduce the impact of future disasters.



1 | BANGLADESH

REHABILITATING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURES, BARGUNA DISTRICT

At the end of 2013, the south of Bangladesh was hit by tropical storm Mahasen, affecting more than 400,000 people. Through its Cash for Work programme, SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL aimed to achieve two goals: to provide 3,000 families with access to income and to rebuild the damaged infrastructure (repairing and elevating roads and dikes, building diversion canals to protect the fields from future flooding, etc.). The local authorities were involved in choosing and carrying out the work projects, and sensitized to their long-term maintenance.

> Construction of new embankments to protect villages and fields from floods.

2 | HAITI

RECONSTRUCTION OF A DISTRICT IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

Following the earthquake of January 2010, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL, in cooperation with the NGO Entrepreneurs du Monde, implemented a programme to rehabilitate the Christ-Roi neighbourhood, which has a population of about 20,000 people. The programme was designed to rebuild the neighbourhood and to make it a healthier environment, more accessible (thus enabling faster evacuation) and more secure by incorporating architectural standards suitable to areas of high seismic activity. The masterplan for the area was developed with the participation of its inhabitants, and validated by the referent Haitian institutions. Particular attention was paid to rehabilitating the Ravine Nicolas, in order to avoid flooding and landslides, both of which are very common during heavy rains.

> Concreting of a street in the district of Christ-Roi.



STAGE 2

BUILD ON LOCAL CAPACITIES OF ANALYSIS AND ACTION

It is vital for vulnerable populations to understand and analyse the causes and consequences of a disaster. Through its training activities, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL strengthens local knowledge, builds capacities, and supports communities as they develop action plans to be implemented before, during and after a disaster occurs.



3 | NORTH HORR, KENYA

A COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN TO COPE WITH DROUGHT

North Horr is experiencing more and more frequent periods of drought, with disastrous consequences on the herders of the region. It is becoming much harder for the latter to find pastures and water points for their animals, their main source of family income and protein (milk) for their children. This situation is also a source of conflict between the different tribes of herders. As a result, SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL assisted groups of herders to analyse their situation and develop action plans to reduce risk. The groups then built rainwater reservoirs, grew and stored fodder for the dry season, and participated in training sessions to improve their animal husbandry practices.

> Water source in North Horr which allows breeders to water their animals during periods of drought.

4 | PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEES RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING EARLY WARNINGS

During the cyclone season, Port au Prince experiences significant material damage and loss of life because of the size and number of its at-risk areas (ravine edges, steep hillsides and uncontrolled urbanization). To compensate for the lack of information and prevention tools, SOLIDARITES INTERNATIONAL has set up six vigilance committees in the Bristout-Bobin neighbourhood and three more in the Christ-Roi neighbourhood. Made up of volunteers, these committees have been trained in the community-based techniques and tools needed for disaster risk preparedness and have been integrated into the municipality early warning network. The committees participated in the definition of the early warning system, which includes amongst other things, a system of coloured flags showing cyclone intensity. They are also equipped with basic materials necessary for emergency first response.

> District DRR committees were equipped with megaphones in order to be able to warn their neighbours in case of disaster.



STAGE 3

STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF POPULATIONS, ENABLING THEM TO ADAPT IN THE LONG TERM

Resilience is the ability of the people affected by disasters to bounce back and return to decent living conditions. The people most affected are located primarily in rural areas and rely on agricultural and livestock activities that are highly dependent on climatic factors. SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL works in collaboration with these communities and their governments to find the most appropriate solutions. Together they find and apply long-term solutions that will enable them to adapt to a more and more challenging environment.

5 | YAKAWLANG, AFGHANISTAN

GRAZING PASTURES THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE HARSH CLIMATE

In Yakawlang, SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL is accompanying 60 communities (7,000 families) as they set up community pasture councils, over an area that covers nearly 800 km². In this mountainous region, most households live on extensive livestock grazing and very limited irrigated agriculture. Their livelihoods are particularly dependent on pasture land and water resources, and are subject to the succession of drought and heavy rainy seasons. After mapping their pasture areas, these communities receive support in order to develop and implement action plans that will lead to the sustainable management of their natural resources. Thus in the long term, terracing or planting forage crops will restore the fertility of the soil, rendering it less vulnerable to climatic hazards and improving water infiltration.

> Afghan trainers themselves receive training in agricultural techniques and sustainable breeding, enabling them to raise community awareness.



6 | SATKHIRA, SOUTHERN BANGLADESH

AGRICULTURE ADAPTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE



Bangladesh is one of the countries that is the most vulnerable to natural disasters (80% of its territory is floodplain). As a member of a collective of 10 NGOs (Narri³) SOLIDARITÉS INTERNATIONAL works with the Department of Agriculture to strengthen its community leadership capacities. Agriculture, the main economic activity in this area, is highly vulnerable to climatic hazards and increases in soil salinity. Pilot activities have been carried out with 500 families to test suitable long-term solutions, such as planting resistant varieties of rice and diversifying income sources (raising poultry, market gardening, growing alternative crops such as reed). In a context where the climate makes it is too risky to depend solely on agriculture, it is vital to work alongside these populations to enable them to diversify into other economic activities.

3 | National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiative

> In Bangladesh, farmers test new, more resistant varieties of rice.