

**Community Involvement**  
**In**  
**Flood Relief and Rehabilitation**

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**Development Support Team, Pune**

# Development Support Team (DST)

- Prominent support service agency, primarily involved in –
  - Micro finance
  - Monitoring and evaluation of NGOs
  - Social research

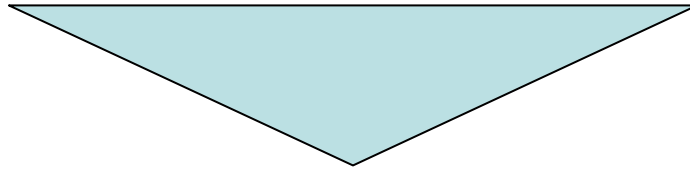
Experience in the areas of –

- gender and women in development issues
- rural development
- community management of natural resources
- working with governments, donor agencies and bilateral programmes



# DST's Approach

Micro Finance operations are primarily of the **Self Help Group-Federation model**



To ensure effective community development, DST's approach is -

- Membership to community-based organizations is **voluntary**
- The operations/decision making processes are **participatory**

# DST's Coverage – rural and urban

## Rural

- Operational in 8 districts of Maharashtra
- 1,400 SHGs with a membership of about 21,000 women
- works with 10 small and medium sized Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

## Urban

- Operational in 40 slums of twin metropolis of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad
- 400 SHGs with a membership of 8,000 women
- works through 20 community organisers

# Disaster and its impact on the community

1. Frequent Disasters have occurred unannounced
2. Caused widespread damage
3. Major loss
  - Human lives
  - Shelter
  - Livelihoods
  - Assets
4. Worst affected are –
  - the poor
  - women tend to be even more vulnerable

# Brief summary of Flood Situation

**2005**

**2006**

Operational Areas  
of -

- 7 organisations
- 1 organisation

No. of urban SHG  
members affected

- 225
- 110

Loss and Damage

- Considerable
- Minimal

Evacuation

- Forceful, by Army assistance
- Voluntary, with Govt. and Army assistance, when required

# Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation

**2005**

**2006**

Damage Assessment by

- DST team
- Acquired from Pune due to scarcity

- CBOs themselves
- Acquired locally by the CBOs

Relief Material – Modus operandi

Relief Material – Blankets & Food kits

- Urban – 225
- Rural – 350

- Urban – Nil
- Rural – 250

Relief Material – Tarpaulin sheets

- Urban – Nil
- Rural - 75

- Urban – 100
- Rural - Nil

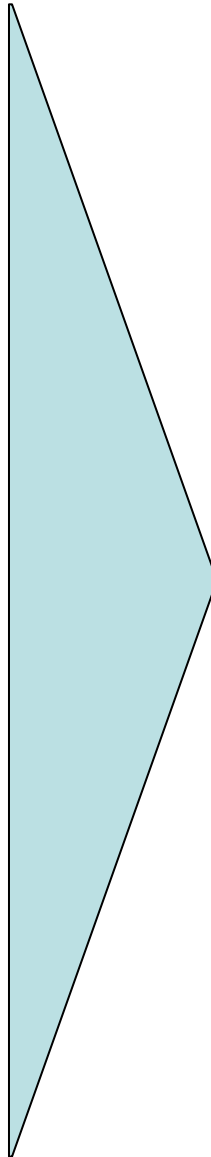
# Learnings from 2005

## Steps taken during the floods in 2006

- Training and experience of relief and rehabilitation operations in various parts of Maharashtra equipped DST and the partner CBOs with the ability to respond to disaster situations
- With such preparedness, there was **no** loss to human life and the damage to property and livelihood resources was **minimum**
- In 2006, DST received daily assessment updates from the rural and urban areas which highlights the CBOs preparedness
- Families affected in the floods took timely shelter in temples and schools arranged by the government which indicated the preparedness of the people to prevent damages to life and property

# Gaps identified in 2005

1. CBOs/NGOs had no experience on disaster preparedness
2. Co-ordination required for rapid response, damage assessment, relief and rehabilitation procedures
3. Lack of alternate communication means (only 1 landline)
4. Lack of Information of the measures being taken by the government/other organisations for disaster mitigation
5. Loss of financial data

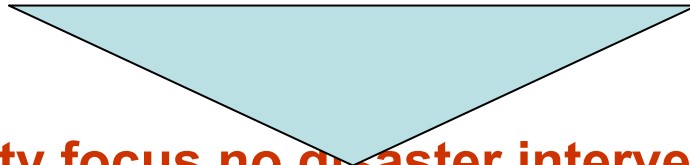


# Mitigation tools used

1. DST Staff conducted Training on Disaster Preparedness & Management to partner CBOs, who in turn trained the community
2. Worked on the CBO's disaster preparedness plan
3. Developed multiple communication mechanisms (mobile telephony acquired)
4. Networked the CBOs with the local government bodies, donors and other NGOs
5. Developed systems to maintain a copy of the financial record at local NGOs/CBOs

# Post Disaster Impacts on the community at large

- Micro Finance, as a concept, got strengthened - Strong bonding developed within the communities
- Community as a whole realized that the SHGs were not just a credit providing entity but a solidarity group that works collectively for the larger good of the community
- Community organisers and members of other SHGs responded to the needs of the flood affected by collecting foodgrains, providing them with warm clothes, utensils, etc.
- Members of SHGs have also realized the benefits of social security measures and have subscribed to an Insurance policy



**Without community focus no disaster intervention can be effective**

Thank-you...