



Disaster Risk Mitigation

Reducing poverty and preserving environment

Afghanistan is prone to natural calamities. Flash floods, droughts, earthquakes and epidemics are common. Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to frequent and unpredictable floods and droughts. In 2009, Helvetas launched a Disaster Risk Mitigation (DRM) programme in 3 provinces of Afghanistan, namely Bamyán, Baghlan and Samangan, to address the problem of flash floods and droughts.



Floods destroy agriculture land, infrastructure, human and animal lives



Droughts lead to people take extreme measures, including selling of their assets/livestock and out migrating for work

DRM Goal: Contribute to the reduction of poverty and preservation of the natural asset base in selected communities by assisting Community Development Councils (CDCs), District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and local government to improve disaster preparedness and response mechanism, promote sustainable land management, construct and maintain protective infrastructures.

Objectives	Outcomes
<p>1. Preparedness and Response Civil society and government authorities increase their competence in assessing disaster risks and preparing adequate mitigation response structures and projects to decrease vulnerabilities</p> 	<p>1.1 Community based DRM preparedness Communities increased their competence in risk assessment, preparedness and response mechanism at short and long term</p> <p>1.2 Disaster mitigation and response structures Provincial Disaster Management Committees are strengthened in disaster preparedness, and in coordinating vertically and horizontally to complement international response efforts and provide quick remedy in case of disasters</p> <p>1.3 Linking relief to development Local partners increased their know-how and skills in disaster mitigation and use short term Relief Aid as 'cash rewards for eco-services' and the promotion of long term soil and water conservation initiatives</p>
<p>2. Sustainable Land Management Communities are empowered to preserve the natural asset base and Watershed Committees manage to reduce soil erosion and flash floods to regain the production potential in watersheds in a conflict sensitive and economically substantial manner.</p> 	<p>2.1 Legal Aspects and Watershed Management Policy Ownership and legal issues are clarified, the committees have sustainable mid-term watershed management structures and implementation plans recognized by the Government</p> <p>2.2. Natural Assets Preservation Small infrastructures and bio engineering reduce destructions by water forces and to preserve the natural asset base in watershed areas</p> <p>2.3. Economic Value Added Watershed owners and users get economic benefits from improved agriculture, livestock production, improved marketable products and seasonal jobs</p>
<p>3. Protective Infrastructures: Local DRM committees are trained and supported by their electorate to plan, construct and maintain protective.</p> 	<p>3.1 Planning and Fund Mobilization for Infrastructures CDC/DDA are supported to plan DRM projects as prioritized in their action plans, and their competence in attracting other donors and working with NGOs increased</p> <p>3.2 Infrastructures Project Implementation CDC/DDA and district governors become reliable partners in executing preventive infrastructures and supporting local private sector</p> <p>3.3 Project Operation and Maintenance Project partners are able to manage and maintain the projects by delegating the tasks to village based or cluster level maintenance committees</p>

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