
Advocacy toolkit case studies

MANAGING DISASTERS IN INDIA

THEME: Disaster management

ADVOCACY APPROACH: Government officials: lobbying

The work of Tearfund partner Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR) focuses on disaster risk reduction across a number of Indian states. The state of Bihar is one of the most populous in India and prone to disasters, particularly large-scale flooding, which destroys land and livelihoods.

When flooding first occurred, EFICOR was involved in the emergency response in Madhubani district, part of which involved disaster risk reduction work. Later, when flooding happened again, the communities that EFICOR had worked with were prepared because mitigation structures were in place. As a result, the damage and loss were minimal, compared to other parts of Bihar.

In light of the floods in Bihar, the National Disaster Management Authority of India decided to prepare flood guidelines for humanitarian agencies, focusing on emergency responses, preparedness, mitigation and risk reduction. Because of its experience and expertise, EFICOR was invited to be part of the task force team responsible for drafting the guidelines, alongside other NGOs. As a result, they shared their learning and helped influence the way the guidelines were worded.

At the same time, EFICOR, along with Sphere India, worked with the Madhubani district officials and the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority to develop a plan for disaster management for the whole of Madhubani, which is now being outworked.