Mission East

NUMBER 4 / AUTUMN 2009

- 4 Afghanistan "Last night I dreamt that the water came back"
- 8 Tajikistan When the river reclaimed its rights



FOCUS



Contents



8-12

Tajikistan

- When the river took back its rights

Early in the morning on April 21st this year, it happened again: a night of heavy rain caused the Yokshu River in southern Tajikistan to overflow, threatening the lives of thousands of children and adults. Christophe Belperron, Mission East's Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, travelled to the area to see for himself the devastation caused by the flooding.

Front page photo:
Over a period of 30 years, the number of days of catastrophic flooding in Tajikistan has more than doubled. This picture is from one of the villages Mission East is helping near the Yokshu River. Here, it is estimated that Mission East's disaster risk management efforts reduce the damage that would be caused if a flood were to take place by as much as 96%.

Mission East

is a Danish international aid organisation. We exist to deliver relief and development assistance to vulnerable communities with a primary focus on Eastern Europe and Asia. Based on Christian values, Mission East aims to support the most vulnerable, making no racial, political or religious distinction between those in need.

Mission East currently operates directly or through local partners in Afghanistan, Armenia, Nepal, Tajikistan, Romania and Bulgaria. The assistance offered by Mission East is supported by a range of private and public donors such as the Danish Ministry of Foreign Afffairs, European Union and the United Nations. Mission East has been verified compliant with the People in Aid Code of Good Practice in the management and support of aid personnel.

Afghanistan

- "Last night I dreamt that the water came back"

Shukria remembers very well the night her heart almost stopped. Rain had started to fall, when suddenly she heard a strange high-pitched sound in the distance. Curious, she went outside to have a look. When she saw the water coming down from the mountain, she was genuinely afraid.

Nepal

- Destroying their own safeguard

Many families in the mountains desperately need to turn forested areas into additional agricultural land in order to have food for the whole year. But by removing these trees, they are removing a necessary protection against

life-threatening disasters such as massive landslides.



13-14

15

Building up disaster-prepared communities

- Mission East's approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

Head Office in Hellerup, Denmark

Managing Director Dr. Kim Hartzner Communications Director Jesper Holst Liaison Officer Filip Buff Pedersen Journalist Tania Rusbjerg Bookkeeper Carina Joy Gates

Mission East Office in Brussels, Belgium

Operations Director Floris Faber Programme Director Ruth Faber Finance Director Peter Drummond Smith Finance Manager Marianne Le Floch Project Support Richard Peppiette Desk Officers Saskia de Smet, Alex Ramos Peña, Jacques Dailloux and Kendrah Jespersen

Board

Chairman Dr. Peter Bernhard Dr. Thomas Ploug Robert Kelley Birgitte Hagelund Bethan llett

Editorial staff

Kim Hartzner Tania Rusbjerg

Production

Rosendahls, Esbjerg

ISSN 0908-2042

www.miseast.org

83% of natural disaster victims live in the East

The thin line that separates each one of us from death became very real to me during my last visit to Afghanistan.

The road had been destroyed by flooding, and as we drove instead along a riverbed I listened to stories about the massive flooding that had taken place in the area not long before. I could picture in my mind's eye how this sudden deluge of water had demanded the lives of several people in this very place. The unfortunate residents of this village didn't stand a chance against this unexpected disaster.

Living in a country at a low risk to natural disasters I was cut straight to the heart by my new understanding of this harsh reality. But natural disasters are unfortunately more the rule than the exception in this part of the world, and are not unfamiliar to many who live in these disaster-prone areas – and their frequency keeps increasing. Asia, where

Mission East's programme areas in Afghanistan, Nepal and Tajikistan are situated, experiences more earthquakes, floods, mudflows and other natural disasters than any other continent.

83% of all victims of these disasters live in the East. Even though Asia constitutes the largest proportion of the world's population, the loss of human life due to disaster per 1,000 inhabitant is still the largest in this continent than anywhere else in the world.

With this in mind, I look forward to the results of the United Nations Climate Change Conference which will be held in Denmark in December. This will be our opportunity to deliver an important message to policy makers and governments worldwide, that while their negotiations will make a difference over time - the world's most vulnerable are suffering from the impacts of climate change now.

Mission East is already acting. At the riverbed in Afghanistan, our engineers have already built dams and drainage systems to lead the water

away from the villages. In these places, where disasters linked to climate change are claiming more

While their negotiations will make a difference over time - the world's most vulnerable are suffering from the impacts of climate change now.

and more victims, we are working today to save precious human lives.

I hope this magazine shows you that disaster risk management is something we take very seriously. A combination of relief response, disaster risk reduction and long-term development is the most effective approach and one which also upholds the value of each individual – one of our core values. For example, over the past 11 years, in the often forgotten country of Tajikistan we have been helping victims of frequent floods not just with emergency assistance, but in directing our resources to prevent the flooding from taking place. We wish to create a better world for the most vulnerable.

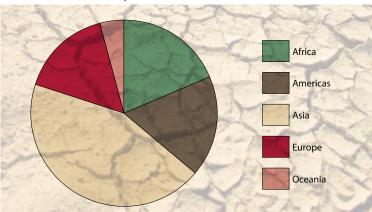
Thank you for your support. Your aid enables survival for the most vulnerable in the East right now.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Hartzner,

Managing Director of Mission East





Source: EM-DAT (Emergency Events Database) of the World Health Organization, 2006



Natural disasters have the most severe effects on the most vulnerable

The occurrence of natural disasters in Asia has risen by as much as 25% since the early years of this millennium.* Villages in Afghanistan's valleys are experiencing significantly more intense floods year after year, while in Nepal's mountainous areas, rice and grain are drying out following more frequent seasons of drought. At the same time, satellite images show glaciers melting in Tajikistan and elsewhere in the east.

And with the rapidly changing climate, the poor once again suffer the greatest losses.

Naturally, Mission East cannot put a significant stop to climate change. But we are working in the areas where the effects of climate change are being felt, and we can play a part in efforts to save thousands of lives by limiting the disastrous consequences of floods, mudflows, earthquakes and drought. We are there when disaster strikes in Afghanistan; when local communities need help in protecting their homes in Tajikistan; and when the risk of repeating a disaster needs to be prevented in Nepal. By looking at the causes behind and at the need for long-term solutions we are ensuring that the help has a vital effect far into the future. We have dedicated this magazine to describing how together we can fight the negative consequences of climate change and make a difference to those who might otherwise suffer alone and unaided.

*Source: EM-DAT (Emergency Events Database) of the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

"Last night I dreamt that the water came back"



By Tania Maria Lüders Rusbjerg, Mission East's Journalist

Shukria from Afghanistan remembers very well the night her heart almost stopped. Rain had started to fall, when suddenly she heard a strange, highpitched sound in the distance. Curious, she went outside to have a look.

When Shukria saw the surge of water coming down from the mountain, she was genuinely afraid. Quickly she retrieved

"Mission East has provided excellent support during the flood response and involved local government in its assistance efforts from day one."

Abdul Latif Ebrahimi, grateful governor of the Takhar Province, during an appearance on regional television.

the children from inside the house, and they rushed to her brother as everyone in the village began to flee in despair from their homes.

"We cried and cried. I ran without shoes. We cried and ran. My brother said we should prepare ourselves to die. At one point, I fell, but my neighbour helped me up. I kept looking for my children – I thought to myself that if we were going to die, we should die together."

Shukria beats with one hand on the left side of her chest as she shares her story. "My heart almost stopped. I was shaking with terror. Some people were asleep when the

flood came. The water took

them. We ran from village to village to find refuge. But everywhere we were told that the flood would reach there too."

No cows, chickens or goats

Shukria comes from a poor village where the houses are made of clay and cannot resist the violent waters. Although the snow melts in the mountains every year and poses a risk to villages in the valleys, this was her first experience of such a devastating flood.

That night was one of the longest in Shukria's life and filled her with fear for the survival of herself and her family. But the nightmare had only just begun.

"When I went back to the village in the morning, I saw that nothing was left. No cows, no chickens, no goats. Nothing. I saw that our house was completely destroyed. I started to weep," she says. "My husband tried to comfort

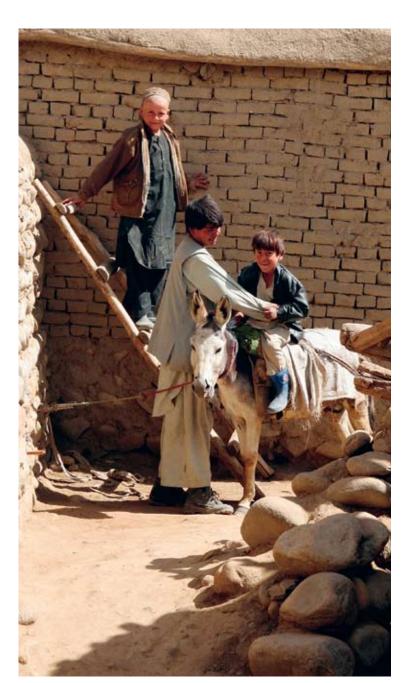
me, saying, 'others have lost five to six family members – you still have all yours'."

Reoccurring dream

After the flood Shukria worked night and day to be able to afford to build a new house. It

was already difficult enough to simply feed her children before this tragedy. Shukria was able to participate in a Mission East project

in a Mission East project to help her generate some income. This additional income was essential to help

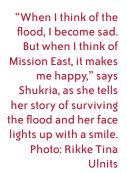


Three of Shukria's sons playing in front of the new house built with bricks of clay. Photo: Rikke Tina

"Some people were asleep when the flood came. The water took them."



Every year when the snow in these picturesque mountains melts, the population living in the valleys is at risk of flooding. Because of poverty, houses in the area are often built with clay which can not resist the excessive water.





Flooding blocks the road between the sick and the hospital

Overnight, 10,000 people in several poor villages in northeast Afghanistan were cut off from the rest of the world. Heavy rain had caused the nearby river to overflow its banks, and resulted in huge rocks blocking the way to markets, schools and the nearest town.

34-year-old Din Mohammad is a farmer and lives in a village on the other side of the river. The following morning he went to check on his fields and saw many children and adults stranded, after trying unsuccessfully to cross the river.

"I was shocked. I saw sick people suffering. The closest clinic is on our side. For two days they had to wait to get to the doctor," he says.

People in the valley came to Mission East for help, and faster than they had expected, work began and the road was cleared. The sick once again had access to the clinic.



This spring, Din Mohammad woke up to a sight that shocked him.

her rebuild her life after this devastating disaster.
"During the day I processed fruits and vegetables, like Mission East taught me. I later sold them at the market. At night, I washed other people's clothes."

The help she has received from Mission East in earning a small income, has given her the opportunity to rebuild the house. But the experience still remains with her and has scarred her deeply. "Last night I dreamt that the water came back," said Shukria.

"When I think of it, I fear for my life."

Shukria knows that her new house will not withstand a severe flood next time around either. But she has neither the knowledge nor the resources to build something that will last. She can only hope that someone will be able to help her if a disaster strikes again. For Shukria, the assistance she has received from Denmark through Mission East's projects means that she can once again give her children a roof over their heads and food on the table. "When I think of the flood, I become sad. But when I think of Mission East, it makes me happy," she says and lights up with a smile.

The only road between the office and the villages was flooded

This summer Mission
East experienced one of
Afghanistan's many natural
disasters first-hand.

For three weeks, excessive quantities of water flooded the only road from the office to the villages where Mission East runs its projects in the Badakhshan Province. This put much of Mission East's work on hold. Aziz Baig, Mission East's Province Manager, says: "The governor asked us and another aid organization to

Afghanistan's natural disasters are increasing in frequency

- Afghanistan is experiencing an average of at least two natural disasters per year.
- From 1999 to 2003, each disaster affected more than 241,500 Afghans on average.
- In South Asia, where Afghanistan is situated, the number of floods has increased by almost 100%; from 21 floods at the start of the millennium to 41 floods in 2006.

Sources: United Nations, Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, EM-DAT (Emergency Events Database) go out to the villages by foot and assess the extent to which the population needed help. Because the only access was by foot, we walked for hours to get there. Our report was sent to the national emergency committee in Kabul who then sent a helicopter with relief aid to the affected villages."

How we help

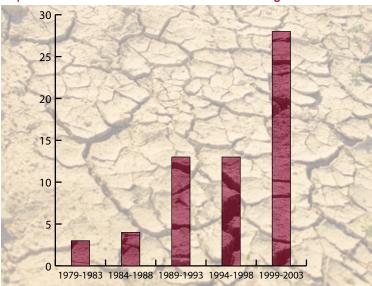
Badakshan, one of the two provinces where Mission
East works, is one of the most vulnerable areas in
Afghanistan when it comes to earthquakes, landslides, floods and avalanches. At the same time, Badakhshan is known as one of the country's bread baskets, and natural disasters are therefore a threat to
Afghanistan's food security.



The flooding this spring has killed at least 150 people and about 22,000 livestock. At least 4,000 fruit trees and 55,250,000 m² of agricultural land were destroyed throughout Afghanistan.

In response to the recent floods, Mission East is now beginning to reconstruct irrigation canals and build a protection wall to reduce the risk of flooding to villages in the area in the future. We have also been able to assist the community to re-open the road that was blocked.

Reported number of natural disasters in Afghanistan



Source: World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters

When the river reclaimed its rights



3,000 kilometres of irrigation channels which were originally built to bring water to the cotton fields now give the river direct access to flood the villages. The girl pictured here is the daughter of Sohina who you can read about on the following pages.

96% less damage

In no more than 30 years, the number of days of disastrous flooding in Tajikistan has risen by 50-60%, according to Tajikistan's Ministry of Nature Protection. Since 2005, Mission East has been working to reduce the often tragic consequences of these floods in 24 of the country's most vulnerable villages. More than 4,000 of the most vulnerable families are now better protected with the help of channels directing water away from their homes. We have prepared evacuation plans and trained rescue teams, and each family has been helped to prepare for a quick flight from home. In addition, over 11,000 children in 17 schools have received training on how to respond when a flood or earthquake occurs.

An analysis of 17 villages shows that these efforts are estimated to reduce damage that would be caused if a flood were to take place by as much as 96 percent.

In the early morning of April 21st this year, it happened again: a night of heavy rain caused the Yokshu River in southern Tajikistan to overflow, threatening the lives of thousands of children and adults.

Christophe Belperron, Mission East's disaster preparedness coordinator, travelled to the area to see with his own eyes the devastation caused by the water. His visit was a

Many wish they could move their children to a safer place. But poverty keeps them prisoner.

very moving experience that brought both joy as well as sorrow, and also renewed his eagerness to work harder to help the people who live there.

The Yokshu River runs gracefully through the beautiful mountainous landscape of the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan. But one should not be fooled! As strikingly beautiful as it looks, it is also deceptive, and can turn

> dangerous at the most unexpected time. Over time, thousands of villagers have learned of the river's overwhelming force, and many wish they could move

their children to a safer place. But poverty keeps them prisoner.

Most of the 30 villages here were settled by the central communist authorities 80 years ago in order to develop cotton production. The once freely meandering river was then domesticated into a complex and costly system of more than 150 km of concrete embankment, some 3000 km of irrigation channels and more than 60 cement production companies installed along the river to dredge it and turn its stones into gravel and cement.

Money, technology and engineers disappeared

When the Soviet union collapsed, leaving the local population with the burden of the impossible maintenance of this complex system. What was once a system of tight control of natural resources, turned into a terrible threat to the surrounding population. It became a seasonal nightmare, generating floods every year through its irrigation network, destroying the embankment at

a speed of 1.5 km every year, damaging houses, filling kitchen gardens with mud, washing roads away, preventing any community development and sending people back to poverty. Nature was reclaiming its right at a high price!

In 2005, after 15 years of fruitless attempts by the population to mitigate the impact of floods, and following a civil war that destroyed much of the Tajik infrastructure, Mission East decided to engage in a long-

term process of Community Flood Management with funding from

When the Soviet Union collapsed, money, technology and skilled engineers left the area within a few weeks.

the Disaster Preparedness programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO). Today, four years later, several villages are now better equipped to tackle natural disasters. Residents of the area can finally start making plans for their future instead of worrying about the next great flood.





The village of Gofilobodi in March and April this year. Water entered into cultivated fields and flooded Gofilobodi village downstream. The town school was also damaged.

1 text message received

The idea of collaboration in Tajikistan between Mission East and the mobile telephone company Babilon was born in November 2008. The

company expects to send periodic text messages to its 50,000 subscribers to share useful knowledge about natural disasters. The initiative is part of a large-scale campaign. Through text messages, advertisement on national television and the distribution of leaflets. Mission East wishes to raise public awareness about floods and earthauakes to help safeguard lives. In addition, if people want to know more about how best to respond to an earthquake, for example, they can call a free number with their questions.

The campaign, which is carried out in cooperation with Tajikistan's Committee for Emergency Situations, is the first of its size in Tajik history. In poor villages where the inhabitants have neither mobile telephones nor televisions, Mission East continues to teach children and adults about disaster preparedness face-to-face.





Journeying to Yokshu with Christophe

On the following pages, Christophe Belperron takes you along on his heartfelt journey to assess the damage done by flooding in some of the villages along the Yokshu River. Meet the people he encountered along the way who each experienced the effects of the flooding in April in very different ways.

Christophe Belperron, Mission East Disaster Preparedness Coordinator





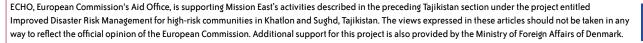
The house is still there

I had barely arrived in Gelot village, as rumors of a Mission East's visit spread and people came out of their houses to thank us for our help. 49-year-old Savrigul Rustamova quickly caught my attention and invited me inside, where she lives with her family of seven members. She told me about last year's flooding when the river came rushing into the village and in a few minutes destroyed several houses on its way. Nothing could resist the water. Since then, Mission East has taught people how to clean the irrigation channel so that the water can flow more easily through the village without causing flooding. Savrigul then told me about the flooding in

April. Although the flow of water was larger and stronger than the year before, no damage was done to either her house or the neighbour's. Next, she took me aside to see the kitchen garden. With pride in her eyes, she showed me all the vegetables she now grows for the family, without fear of the water washing all of her hard work away in a split second. It made me so happy to hear that she now dares to think long-term and is investing in the future.

> "Come and see my kitchen garden!" A joyful Savrigul no longer fears that the river will wash away her vegetables.







The importance of good neighbours

As I walked along the irrigation canal and greeted those I met along the way with the traditional Tajik greeting with my right hand on my heart, my attention was drawn to a dilapidated house nearby. The wall around the house was almost completely destroyed, and the largest gaps



Bedjoda with her children.

were covered with a simple wire fence in an attempt to keep out large wildlife. Here I met Bedjoda Burieva. Bedjoda is a single mother of three children who says she "It was a heart-warming experience to see Bedjoda would find it difficult to manage life without the generosity of her good-hearted neighbours. With a smile she showed me the reinforcement that her kind neighbours had helped her to add to the foundation of her house. Because of this, her primitive home is no longer in danger of collapsing if water and mudflows invade her small



smile in spite of her hardships," says Christophe. Here Bedjoda is in front of the destroyed wall.

yard. It was a heart-warming experience to see Bedjoda and her children smile in spite of their hardships, and I hope that her wonderful neighbours will also help her to rebuild the wall around the house.



I paid a visit to the containment channel we built in 2006 and there met with an old man, Bobo Obedinov, who is the head of a large 16-member family. Bobo explained to me, that back in 1966, when he

built his house at the very of this mudflow stream and end of a small valley, nobody the channel in front of Bobo's told him it was a dangerous place. One year later, a massive mudflow came down this valley and washed away the entire village. He rebuilt his house in 1967 with a stronger founda-Bobo's yard. tion and a drainage channel to redirect the flow. But still, floods kept occuring, washing away his plots and harvest, and removing the young fruit trees he planted. In 1970, when the state built the first asphalt road along the hills following the

channel, they installed a pipe

below the road at the junction

house. But not only was the pipe undersized and failed to prevent the road from being damaged regularly, it also increased the mudflow toward Finally, in 2005 (after years of hardship) Mission East built a mitigation structure, the seasonal mudflow stopped being a threat to Bobo and his family. Today, his garden is once again filled with the finest vegetables and fruit trees.

Since 1960, Bobo has struggled with the consequences of numerous floods.





A rejected cry and a broken heart

From Gelot I went to the village of Pakhtakhor. Here I met Sohina Khakhmanova whose eyes were as troubled as the water that day. Early in the morning of April 21st she had seen the water coming from the north. She saw how it invaded the flat fields and moved towards her home. The clogged pipes that were built to lead water away were of no help, and the road locked the water in and made it rise. Sohina panicked and contacted the local authorities. Finally, at eight o'clock in the morning when the water was already at the level of the windows, a representative came. Sohina begged for permission to dig a trench in the road, but her plea was rejected. All day long she pleaded, and finally around eight o'clock in the evening the authorities agreed to dig the ditch at the expense of the poor family. The water level fell, but the

walls had already begun to crack in several places, and the family feared that their home would collapse. Sohina was desperate. She got in contact with her husband in Russia (there was no work available for him in Tajikistan, and leaving the country was his only way of supporting the family). He sent a little money, so Sohina was able to repair the worst cracks.

The day before my visit to Sohina's home the rain had poured again and I could see that the water was coming back. But what really broke my heart was when I realised that one year ago, I had rejected this village's cries for help. I had been forced to do so as we simply didn't have enough resources to help everyone in the area. This hit me hard.



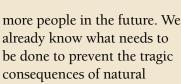
The water came up to this height before Sohina persuaded the authorities to dig a trench which could save her home and family.

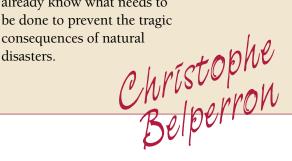


Afterthoughts

In my encounters with the people who live in the villages along the Yokshu River I was met predominantly with joy and gratitude. But this journey also opened my eyes to the realities of suf-

fering, which I do not want to experience again. I was really affected by Sohina's story and struck by the fact that I and Mission East have not yet been able to help her. I desperately want to help even





Destroying their own safeguard

By Tania Maria Lüders Rusbjerg, Mission East Journalist "When I look out over the mountains during the cold winter evenings, I see blinking lights in the darkness. Everywhere in the distance there are small glimpses of fire."

Saskia Fokkink is Mission East's representative in one of



The two paths had to be cleared after the landslide before people could move from village to village again.

Nepal's most remote mountain areas. Here she lives and works in a hut from where she has witnessed the burning of trees, which goes on at a large scale in this destitute region. Many families in the mountains desperately need to turn forested areas into additional agricultural land in order to have food for the whole year. But by removing these trees, they are removing a necessary protection against life-threatening disasters such as large landslides.

"Even when winter is about to end, you can see massive burning of trees," Saskia says. "There is so much smoke that it feels like you are moving around in fog. The helicopters, which are one of the ways we transport our construction materials up here, have to cancel flights because visibility is so poor."

There are no rules for cutting down trees in the mountains, and people are unaware that their actions pave the way for more and more dangerous landslides. When such a natural disaster destroys the villages and their already scarce supplies and meagre belongings, it leads to greater poverty and further starvation and creates a vicious circle. "It really does hurt to see the trees being burned, when I know what implications this has," says Saskia.

If we don't help, nobody does

Families living in Nepal's most isolated mountains, are increasingly affected by changes in the climate. There are very few statistics available from this isoloated area, but a survey of 26 villages carried out by Mission East via our local partner organisation, KIRDARC, clearly shows that there is an increasing occurrence of periods of either drought or excessive precipitation, leading to life-threatening periods of hunger or destructive mudflows respectively. In response to this situation, Mission East is undertaking a new project to increase children's and adults' knowledge of natural disasters, and how to prevent the tragic consequences of disaster and how to save their own and others' lives when disaster strikes. This area has been ignored for a long period of time and it appears that the authorities will not likely

for a long period of time and it appears that the authorities will not likely have the capacity to act in response to threats of natural disaster within the next few years. Mission East and KIRDARC are the only organisations working in the area of disaster risk management in this region. If we do not provide this assistance, there may be no one else who can help.



Mission East's representative in the remote mountain villages of Nepal, Saskia Fokkink (in the green jacket), tells of an experience with people cutting down the trees: "One day I was walking on the way from Sarkegad to Sarisella. The path follows the flow of the Karnali River, and on both sides of the path there is pine forest. It was a beautiful walk, and all we could hear was the sound of the river and our own footsteps. Suddenly the porter, who was right behind me, pushed me forward so strongly that I almost fell down. Then we heard a big thud. I look behind me and saw that the porter had just saved me from having a large stone fall on my head. Up on the hill people were cutting trees and letting the trunks roll downhill by gravity. This saves them a lot of hard work, but also causes the uncontrolled movement of soil and stones."

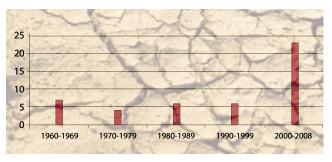
"What takes many years to grow, only takes a few days to destroy. Several areas were once dense forest. Now, only the

naked mountain sides remain."

"People are unaware that their actions pave the way for more and more dangerous landslides."

Since 2007, Mission East

Number of events per decade in the district of Humla



has built irrigation channels to the fields and taught farmers about improved farming techniques that can lead to bigger and better harvests. Now, Mission East is beginning a new disaster risk reduction project in Nepal, with support from the Disaster Preparedness programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO). This project will teach communities how to reduce human losses and ruined food storages due to disaster by, among other things, being conscious about not cutting down the trees that protect them.

We hope that these efforts to reduce the impacts that sudden disaster can have on an already-vulnerable community in a place like Nepal - or Tajikistan or Afghanistan – will bring a greater hope for the future for the communities where we work. We do not know what effects climate change will have on our planet in the coming years. But we do know that it is already beginning to effect those least equipped to cope with the consequences, and Mission East is ready to do our utmost to help them.

Building up disaster-prepared communities

Mission East's approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

In approaching the task of helping communities prepare for potential natural disasters, Mission East applies a few key tools, which are modified to best fit each community we work with. The goal is to help communities reach a place where they are aware of the potential risks around them, have put measures in place to minimize these risks, and are ready to act effectively to protect their citizens and livelihoods from harm in the event that a disaster does occur.



Step 3: Systems, Plans & Physical Infrastructure In all our work:

– In places where Mission East may not have a direct disaster preparedness project underway, we pro-actively mainstream disaster risk reduction techniques and considerations into all our community development programmes. At a broad level, Mission East is also active in national and international networks to ensure close coordination, synergy, best practice and knowledge sharing among actors working in disaster risk reduction.

- We help communities develop hazard monitoring and early warning systems to anticipate the occurrence of hazards and allow safe evacuation for the local population. Local authorities use tools such as radio networks to make effective decisions for populations at-risk. In the event that a natural disaster does strike, communities are also ready with disaster management plans. These decision-making tools identify priorities for action and guide leaders as they strive to act in the best interest of their civilians in a disaster situation. We also propose physical infrastructure modifications to better withstand natural disasters.

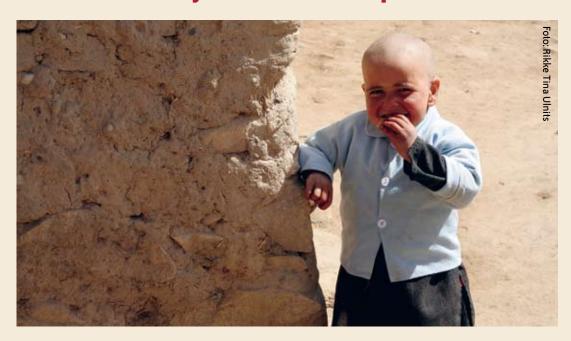
Step 2: Building-capacity

Trainings equip community members and authorities with the knowledge and tools they
need to prepare for and manage the risks of disaster. Trainings cover topics such as first
aid or effective decision-making during disasters, and include simulations to practice good
emergency responses.

Step 1: Risk assessments

– An essential first step to providing effective support for a community. Through these assessments, we can help the population to identify the natural disaster risks within their communities based on their past history. A further assessment of the level of vulnerability of each village and household determines the potential impact of a natural disaster.

We need you to help others



Last year Mission East extended urgent relief and long-term development aid to more than 350,000 people in Eastern Europe and Asia. Our work is only possible due to the donations that we receive from private individuals and other donors. You can help us to help the needy by making a donation using the donation slip or via Mission East's website www.miseast.org. You can donate an amount of your choice online, using Visa or MasterCard.

If you live within Europe, you can also make a donation to us by bank transfer for free, as long as the donation is in Euros and you have some form of electronic banking.

The details of our bank account are:

IBAN: DK6130003785046366
BIC: DABADKKK
Mission East, Skt. Lukas Vej 13,
DK-2900 Hellerup
Denmark

If you would like to make a donation to Mission East but prefer not to do it online, we would be more than happy to receive a cheque from you at the address above. With your support, Mission East can continue to transform lives.

Thank you!

