

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 3339 Booth Number: 72

Promoting Low-Cost, Flood-Resilient Shelters for Vulnerable Rural Villages

COUNTRY: India

ORGANIZATION: Catholic Relief Services

FUNDING REQUEST: \$199,793

OBJECTIVE: To test appropriate, flood-resilient shelter models for use in Orissa. At the end of the project, CRS and partners will have tested replicable, flood-resilient shelter models, for flood-prone areas to be approved by the state for inclusion in the state disaster risk reduction program.

RATIONALE: Loss of shelter is a major issue for families living in areas affected by recurring floods. Natural disasters are an annual occurrence in India. Rebuilding shelters year after year in the aftermath of floods and cyclones is a priority for families that erases any savings they have made. As fewer resources are available to rebuild, shelters become smaller and many are incomplete before the next monsoon season. Disaster-affected families are sometimes eligible for rural housing grants from the government, but unknowingly rebuild using housing techniques that are not flood resilient.

INNOVATION: CRS is promoting two low-cost shelter models using locally available materials, one using prefabricated concrete pillars and the other, compressed stabilized earth block (CSEB). Local artisans and beneficiaries can easily understand the flood-resilient construction techniques demonstrated in both models and replicate these new techniques of cross-bracing and installing pillars two feet below the ground in new construction. Both CRS shelter models are environmentally adaptable and can withstand 4–5 feet of water or normal monsoon conditions.

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