

## SHIFTING GEARS FROM DISASTER MANAGEMENT TO DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN CHITRAKOOT DISTRICT

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**In a nutshell:** Concerted efforts are being made in the worst-affected areas of Chitrakoot for better preparedness and response to combat drought.

**Nodal agency:** District administration, Chitrakoot

Chitrakoot, one of the eight aspirational districts of Uttar Pradesh, is vulnerable to both natural and human induced disasters. This district has experienced recurrent droughts, especially in 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Arising from this is a situation of grave water scarcity with a direct bearing on the availability of safe and adequate water and food for the people. As a result, the nutritional and health status of children and women, especially from poor households, are affected the most. Also, under drought conditions, children often drop out of schools to help their families with either household chores or earning a livelihood. To combat drought in Chitrakoot, there is an urgent need to make a paradigm shift from disaster management to disaster risk reduction. Shifting gears, concerted efforts are being made for operationalizing a multi-sectoral, convergent disaster risk and response plan with the overall objective for enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable.

Aligned to the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the focus is on:

- a. Integration of disaster risk reduction in development programming;
- b. Building on local capacities and community preparedness; and
- c. Leveraging technology to enhance efficiency of disaster risk management efforts.

- A mobile app has been designed for online and offline incidence communication of hazards through notifications, SMS and IVRS. Such an early warning and early action system aims at minimizing damage and losses. This mechanism ensures that during a disaster, reporting of the incident shall be instant from the point of incidence and alerting authorities who would need to take immediate action to ensure a quick response. All the 649 villages across 4 tehsils of Chitrakoot have been mapped. Around one million people will benefit through the sustained use of this mobile app.
- Multi-sectoral convergent community-based drought preparedness and response measures have also been undertaken. Preparedness and response measures across core sectors such as water, rural development, environment, nutrition and health are

being implemented for enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable residing in the drought affected Manikpur Block of Chitrakoot.

- Specifically, the focus is on sustained availability of adequate and safe water, implementation of risk integrated gram panchayat development plan, capacity building of women self-help group members on environment conservation and waste management for generating alternate sources of livelihood, improving nutritional status of children and proper early childhood education in Anganwadi centres.
- Check dams have been restored to reduce surface water run-off, thereby leading to increased levels of ground water.
- Women self-help group members are also trained on implementing a sustainable model of environment risk reduction and waste management, thereby, carving alternate sources of income for themselves and their families.
- A system is developed for categorization of out-of- school children in this region. Additionally, a community- based strategy has been devised to bring children back to school.

## Impact

- Strengthened disaster risk governance by leveraging technology for a district disaster management system.
- Enhanced resilience of communities, especially, children and women to climate-induced stress (drought) in worst affected areas of Chitrakoot.



Facilities and infrastructure to mitigate the drought conditions in Chitrakoot