



MUKTI

DRR Profile

The women-led Disaster Reliever in Sundarbans Delta

MUKTI FOR DRR

MUKTI- the non-profit, socio-economic development organization established in 2003 in Sundarbans Delta, the climate change hotspot, under the fervid effort and leadership of the [Founder and President](#) Mr Sankar Halder.. MUKTI works consistently for humanitarian response complying with Core Humanitarian Standards covering wider range of at-risk people in Sundarbans of West Bengal and Coastal Districts of Odisha in India. As the Healer of the hotspot, MUKTI performs [disaster risk reduction](#) amid its [HEALER-AID](#) programs representing quality and accountability and thus received the Special Consultative Status from United Nations Economic & Social Council (UNECOSOC), [Accreditations](#) and [Awards & Recognitions](#).

MUKTI is formed for addressing the risk and climate change hazards and reforming livelihoods of the grassroots straggling in Sundarbans, the climate change hotspot.

MUKTI's Mission is an integrated sustainable and NetZero inclusion. For this, MUKTI works as the Healer of the hotspot by encouraging people's participation and leading community-led inclusive development through environment-friendly [HEALER- AID Programs](#) including Health, Education, Agriculture, Livelihood, Environment, Rights, Awareness, Integrated development and Disaster Risk Reduction in partnership with about 120 multiple donor [partners](#). In the Strategy, MUKTI empowers people by strengthening participation to identify and analyze root causes and accordingly to support with holistic solutions for inclusive development within a women-led approach to inclusive resilience.

MUKTI DRR APPROACH

MUKTI embodies a [women-led disaster risk reduction \(DRR\)](#) approach by establishing Disaster Resilient Sister (DRS) groups. It focuses on raising awareness, enhancing institutional capacity, and continuously developing the DRR skills of 3,000 women in the DRS. This initiative aims to professionalize disaster risk management (DRM) across disaster-prone areas during the preparedness and mitigation phases.

[Climate Resilient Embankment:](#) Four layers of mangroves are being utilized to create a sustainable green defence solution for river embankments, replacing traditional concrete methods. This approach not only enhances environmental protection but also provides job opportunities for a large number of women, contributing to a cost-effective green economy.

[Climate-resilient housing:](#) MUKTI designs cyclone- and flood-resistant sustainable housing for the Sundarbans, capable of withstanding wind speeds of up to 200 km/h and remaining functional even under 15 feet of water. So far, 105 climate-resilient homes have been established to mitigate disaster risk and support livelihoods in vulnerable communities.

[Climate Resilient Organic Agriculture:](#) Since Cyclone Aila in 2009, MUKTI has been promoting climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture through organic methods. Currently, 12,000 farmers are engaged in these practices, with 300 farmers achieving organic certification, [FICCI awarded Mukti as number one in India in 2021](#).

[Climate Resilient Health and Education:](#) MUKTI provides healthcare support to grassroots women and children in the Sundarbans by establishing 1,800 health camps and community clinics throughout the region. It also offers referral services for critical patients to clinics and hospitals. Additionally, MUKTI's education program is designed to be climate- and disaster-resilient.

MUKTI DRR EXPERIENCE

[Cyclone Aila](#) struck on May 25, 2009, affecting 2 million people, resulting in thousands of deaths, displacing many families, and devastating 1.5 million hectares of agricultural land across the Sundarbans. MUKTI implemented disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, reaching approximately 200,000 individuals from various households to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery through inclusive resilience initiatives.

[Cyclone Amphan](#) struck on May 20, 2020, devastating 2.5 million people, destroying 5,000 houses, and damaging approximately 451,600 acres of farmland, leaving many extremely vulnerable. MUKTI provided inclusive resilience through disaster reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts, including public warning dissemination, rescue operations, relief assistance, healthcare, and ongoing support for recovery, reaching 1 million individuals.

[Cyclone Bulbul](#) struck on November 9, 2019, damaging 10,000 households, displacing 50,000 people, and devastating 120,000 hectares of cultivable land across the Sundarbans. MUKTI provided inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) support by offering sustainable and holistic solutions for recovery and rehabilitation, assisting 200,000 people in the region.

[Cyclone Yaas](#) struck in May 2021, affecting 15 CD blocks, devastating 1,500 houses and damaging 32,416 acres of farmland. In response and recovery efforts, MUKTI implemented a women-led disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach, delivering inclusive resilience support to 100,000 people.

[Cyclone Remal](#) struck in late May 2024, impacting 5,000 families across 15 CD blocks in South 24 Parganas. The cyclone destroyed 225,000 acres of farmland, uprooted trees, and devastated homes and livelihoods. MUKTI effectively managed the aftermath of Cyclone Remal by providing inclusive resilience support at all stages of disaster risk reduction (DRR) to 20,000 people.

MUKTI provided support during the [Kerala floods](#) in August 2018 and the [Sikkim flash floods](#) in October 2023. The organization facilitated immediate response efforts by supplying materials, deploying volunteers, and establishing medical camps with doctors and medications.

[Cyclone Dana](#) struck on October 24-25, 2024 devastating 80% of agricultural land, 10% of homes, and 7% of livestock, while uprooting 15% of trees, leaving 132,000 households extremely vulnerable in the coastal districts of Odisha. Similarly, it impacted 15 CD blocks in the Sundarbans, including South 24 Parganas and East and West Midnapore districts, affecting 81,000 households and destroying crops across 40% of agricultural land, leading to food insecurity and unemployment. MUKTI mitigated disaster hazards and damage by providing response support through public warnings, rescue efforts, relief, and shelter, followed by assistance for recovery and rehabilitation in affected communities.

MUKTI DRR CAPACITY

[MUKTI possesses](#) exceptional experience and expertise in disaster risk reduction (DRR) across all phases of disaster management (DM). It is well-managed in areas such as governance, human resources, financial management, program delivery, sustainability, external linkages, and monitoring and evaluation. MUKTI upholds global standards of proficiency in service delivery and resource and grant management, maintaining integrity, transparency, and a zero-tolerance policy for misconduct. The organization fosters effective networks and global coordination to promote program development and growth.

Contact

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