Enabling Partnerships for Sustained Livelihoods

Experiences of DHAN Foundation

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About DHAN

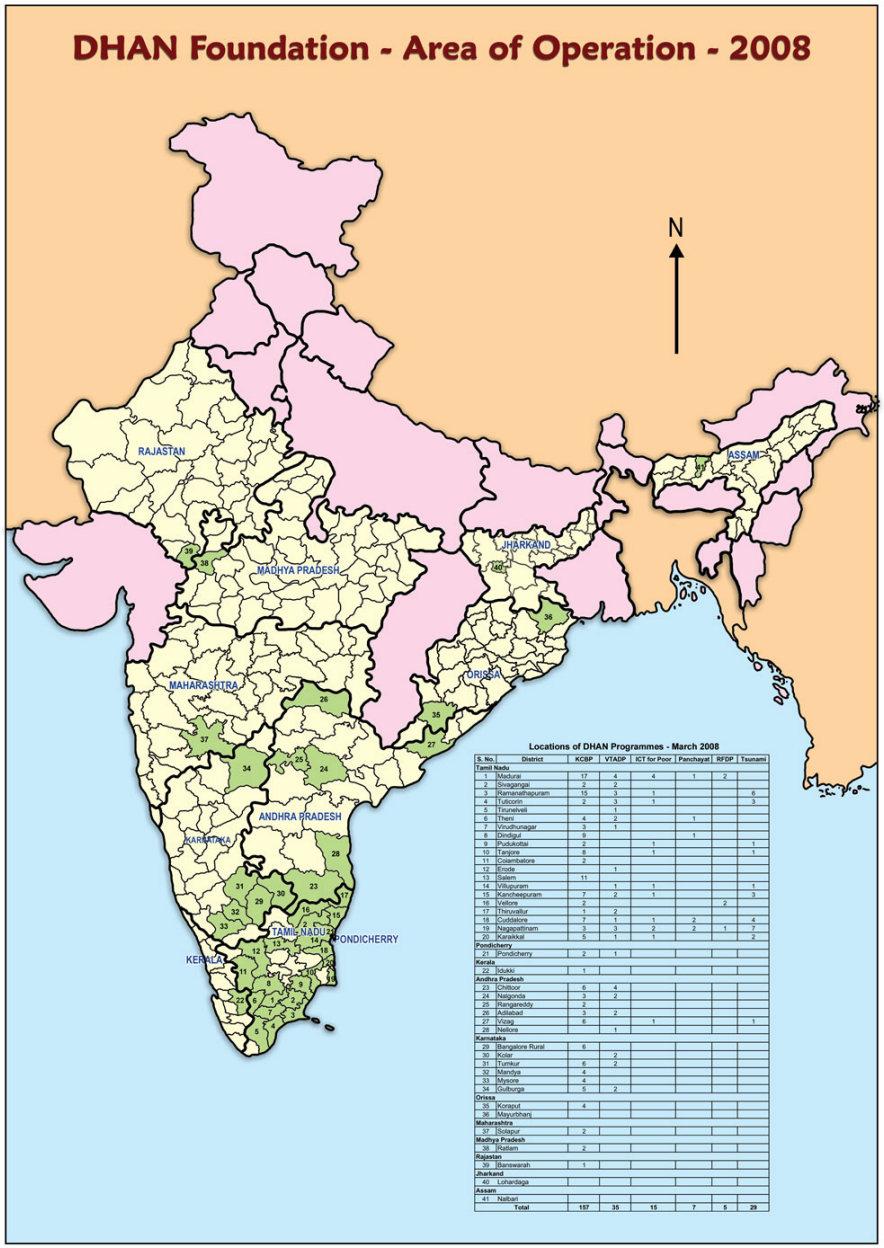
Development of Humane Action (DHAN) is a grassroot action, professional development organization working with poor. (www.dhan.org)

Its Mission is "Building people and institutions for development innovations and up scaling to enable the poor communities for poverty reduction"

Work in 7 thematic areas (MF, NRM, ICT, RFA, Coast. Cons, Dev.Edu and Dem. Panchayats)

Context : Urban, Rural Coastal and Tribal

Reach



Locations of DHAN Programmes - March 2008

S. No.	District	KCBP	VTADP	ICT for Poor	Panchayat	RFDP	Tsunami
Tamil Nadu							
1	Madurai	17	4	4	1	2	
2	Sivagangai	2	2				
3	Ramanathapuram	15	3	1			6
4	Tuticorin	2	3	1			3
5	Tirunelveli		1				
6	Theni	4	2		1		
7	Virudhunagar	3	1				
8	Dindigul	9			1		
9	Pudukottai	2		1			1
10	Tanjore	8		1			1
11	Coiambatore	2					
12	Erode		1				
13	Salem	11					
14	Villupuram		1	1			1
15	Kancheepuram	7	2	1			3
16	Vellore	2				2	
17	Thiruvallur	1	2				
18	Cuddalore	7	1	1	2		4
19	Nagapattinam	3	3	2	2	1	7
20	Karaikkal	5	1	1			2
Pondicherry							
21	Pondicherry	2	1				
Kerala							
22	Idukki	1					
Andhra Pradesh							
23	Chittoor	6	4				
24	Nalgonda	3	2				
25	Rangareddy	2					
26	Adilabad	3	2				
27	Vizag	8		1			1
28	Nellore		1				
Karnataka							
29	Bangalore Rural	6					
30	Kolar		2				
31	Tumkur	6	2				
32	Mandya	4					
33	Mysore	4					
34	Gulburga	5	2				
Orissa							
35	Koraput	4					
36	Mayurbhanj						
Maharashtra							
37	Solapur	2					
Madhya Pradesh							
38	Ratlam	2					
Rajastan							
39	Banswarah	1					
Jharkand							
40	Lohardaga						
Assam							
41	Nalbari						
	Total	**157**	**35**	**15**	**7**	**5**	**29**

Families : 765,269
Villages : 9249
States : 11

Post Tsunami Initiative

CONTEXT

- Coastal, Post Disaster Recovery
- **Fisheries, Coastal Agriculture**, Salt Pan, Sea Shell Collectors and other allied activities
- Overwhelming response from different stakeholders
- to "**Build Back Better**"

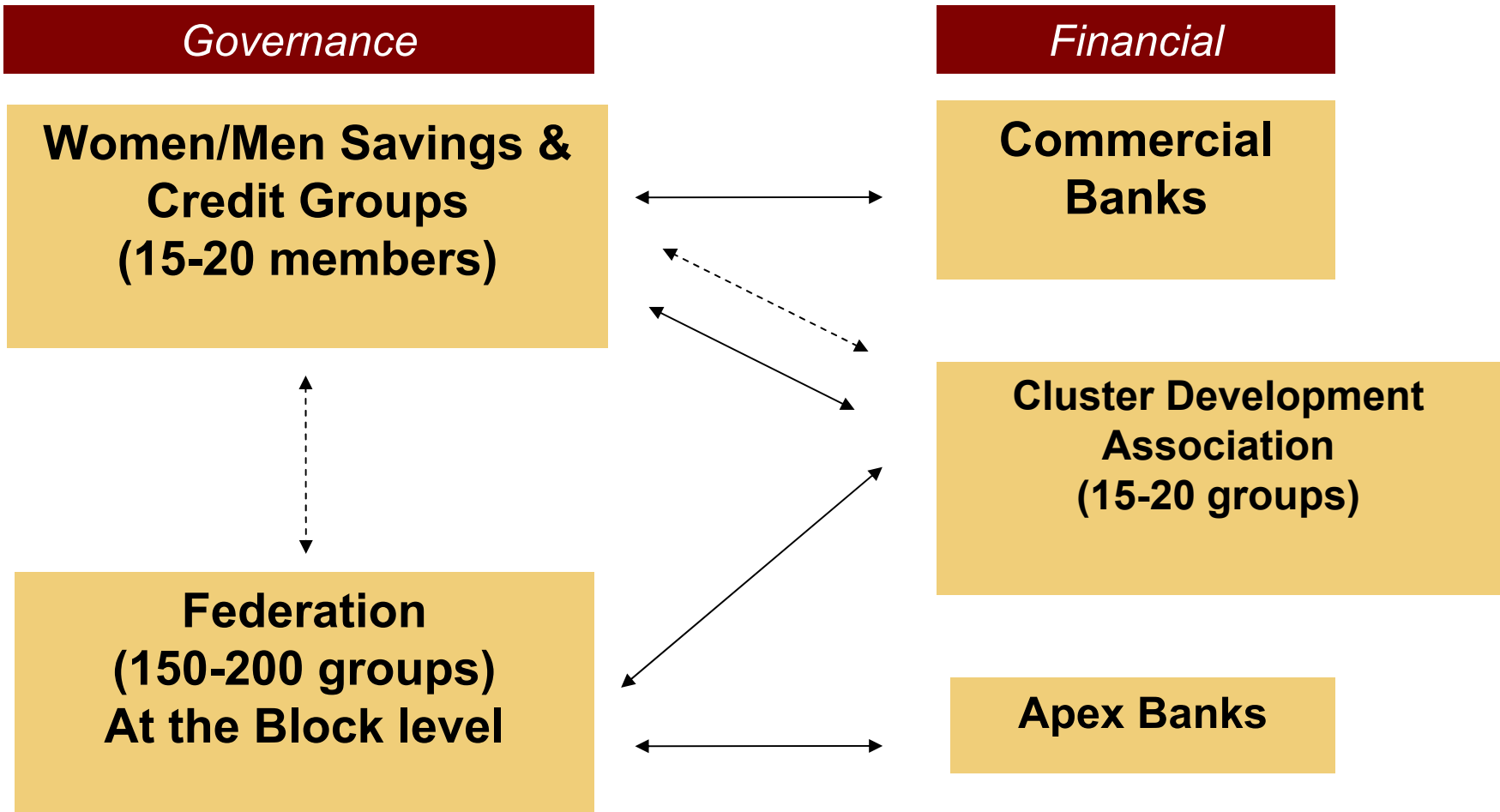
Challenges (Pre Tsunami)

- Fisheries : To restore one of the high risk occupation (BOBP,FAO)
- Consisting of vast section of vulnerable community (790,000 population with >60% asset less)
- Fragile ecosystems, marine / coastal resources at threshold (0.34 MT per annum, increasing effort and reduced catch per boat)
- Open resource, migration from hinterland, increase in crafts (39K to 69K in a decade)
- Dominance of Mechanised crafts over traditional crafts(20% over 60% of the resources
- Coastal Agriculture : Declining productivity – soil salinity – water stress
- Limited access to markets and credits

Approach in Post Tsunami

- Viewed as an opportunity for development in the coastal context.
- An opportunity to rebuild with reduced risk and vulnerability.
- The interventions were designed with a long term development plan
- Organise the community - Restore and Strengthen the livelihoods - Conserve the resources.
- Restoration is routed through the organised Community Organisations (CO) as RF (Rs.450M / Rs.900M reaching 67,000 families)
- Support went as interest free loan with flexibility in repayment.
- The repaid amount is stocked in the CO as risk reduction fund.
- Along with livelihood restoration DRR initiatives like establishing DMC's, ICT for EW, Sea Safety Kits, Life Insurance etc., have been initiated.

Structure of Community Organisation



67,000 families, 3901 SHG's, 41 federations

Enabling partnerships

1. Improved Financial Services with mainstream financial institutions

- The organised community were involved in micro finance activity
- The habit of savings is inculcated right from the beginning and internal lending was initiated.
- In six months, the CO's get linked with Banks (mainstream financial resources) and avail loans with interest rates ranging from 10% - 12% per annum.
- The intervention minimised the dependence on private money lenders with exorbitant interest rates of 60 – 120%.

- **IMPACT** : Mobilised Rs.125 M as community savings; Rs.115M from Banks; restricting about Rs.69M + Rs.75M getting drained from the community to money lenders kitty.

Enabling partnerships…

2. Partnership with corporates through collective marketing

- The fish market is controlled by
  - money lenders, (*Vattakaran*)
  - agents working for EOU's (Squid, Crab, Lobster)
  - Export Oriented Units
- The level of exploitation is 30-40% on the price
- The fisher folk were always under a constant debt trap
- DHAN organised the fisher folks into Primary Producer Groups
- Initiated the concept of collective marketing
- Through financial services the fisher folks were first rescued from debt trap

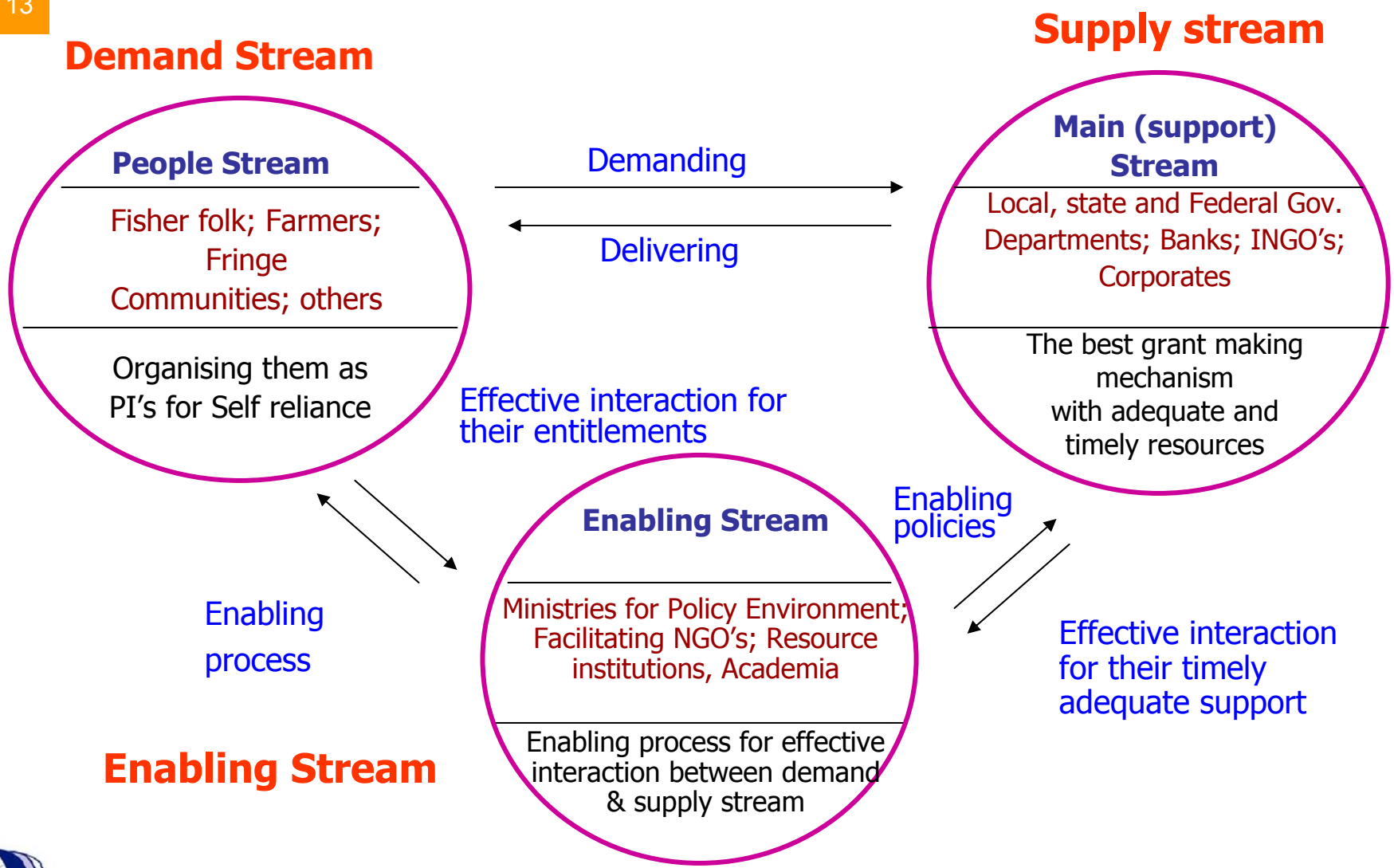
- Once the fisherfolk got relieved from the clutches of money lenders they were enabled to negotiate with the EOU's directly.
- Collective action lead to sizeable quantity of quality product available at a one location favoured the EOU's to have direct access with the PPG's.

IMPACT :

- Exploitation of 30-40% on the actual price got eliminated.
- The intervention covered about 775 families
- The total volume of fish product dealt with was around 471 tonnes
- With the total turn over of Rs. 44.4M
- The additional profit is about Rs. 1.3 M

3. Similar interventions were made in the coastal agriculture produce marketing for the products such as groundnuts, dried coconuts and cashew nuts which resulted in an additional profit of Rs.1800 per crop for the farming community.
4. For a better transfer of technology DHAN facilitated the people institutions to establish linkages with technical institutions relevant in each sector and facilitated a better transfer of technology for strengthening the livelihoods of the coastal community. (CARC)

Partnership Model



Learnings

- Primacy of building self-sustainable people institutions `should' be valued by all partners
- Primacy should be given to vulnerable and marginal sections for their livelihood development
- Programme(s) design is `not only' based on people need but also from their choices and owned by People Institution
- Equity with Quality `should be' ensured
- Transparency' in operation must be followed by all partners
- Post Disaster Recovery should be participatory instead of delivery
- Interventions can be designed as long term development

Learnings to Meaningful Action

- Established an exclusive centre - **ACEDRR – Advanced Centre for Enabling Disaster Risk reduction** supported by Oxfam America
- **Mission:** To provide evidence-based knowledge for enabling the integration of DRR in mainstream development and encourage community-driven models and solutions for sustainability of DRR.
- **Vision:** to emerge as a centre of excellence in disaster risk reduction through building and sharing knowledge from practice; pioneering in research, networking and policy advocacy; and encouraging innovations and action.
- **Core Values:** Humaneness, Openness, Enabling, Innovation, Excellence

ACEDRR is involved in…

- Document and disseminate good practices and DRR models already in existence to a wide audience
- Experiment, develop, and disseminate tools, techniques, and models for DRR.
- Create and maintain a good collection of disaster database
- Involve community based research, policy research in the area of disaster risk reduction

"Making DRR everybody's concern"

http://www.dhan.org/acedrr/