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# Asian Cities Climate Resilience

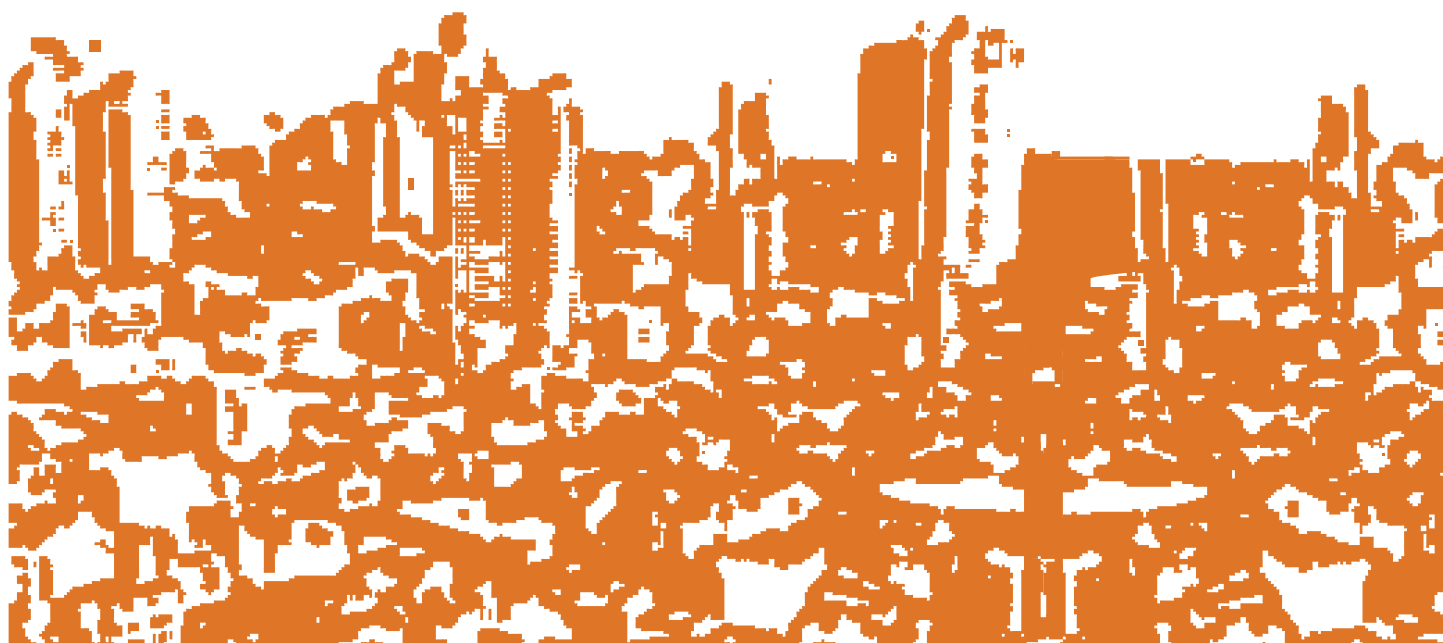
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## **The economic impact of floods and waterlogging on low-income households**

### **Lessons from Indore, India**

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# Abstract

As Indian cities grow, urban planners must ensure that basic infrastructure and public services are provided on a sustainable and equitable basis. Access to amenities such as water, electricity, food, drainage, sewerage systems, solid waste disposal, healthcare and transportation are key to the smooth functioning of urban areas. Indore, like several other rapidly growing cities in India, faces the problem of ever-changing land use, the emergence of high-rise buildings and walled townships, and growing informal settlements across the metropolitan area. These developments render the urban poor vulnerable to disease, accidents, loss of assets and daily livelihood struggles, as well as exposure to severe economic and non-economic losses as a result of severe weather events. This study estimates the economic losses suffered by the urban poor in terms of assets and productivity due to climate-induced waterlogging and floods. It examines how the vulnerability of slum dwellers living in informal settlements is exacerbated by a lack of supportive institutional mechanisms, the nature of non-inclusive economic growth, the social exclusion of urban landscapes and discriminative access to public services.

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# 1 Introduction and objectives

## 1.1 Urbanisation and informal settlements

Economic growth contributes to urbanisation, and urbanisation feeds back into economic growth. But the scale and pace at which economies in Asia have experienced urbanisation has caught the planners in a state of deregulation and ambiguity (Mukhopadhyay and Revi 2009; Roy, 2009). This fast-paced urbanisation is hampered by inadequate infrastructure, which turns Indian cities into landscapes of ‘bourgeois enclaves and slums’ that point towards sharp social divisions (Roy, 2009).

In India, such economic growth has not been matched by job creation but it has increased the contractualisation, casualisation and informalisation of labour (Mehrotra *et al.*, 2012). The 2011 Census shows that while the average economic growth rate was 7.7 per cent per annum, the growth rate of employment was only 1.8 per cent. More than half of the employment growth in India’s organised sector remained informal (Mehrotra *et al.*, 2012). Informalisation in India is understood as informal (ie. casual and contractual) employment in the organised (formal) sector; and employment in the unorganised (informal) sector, as described under the System of National Accounts 1993 (Datt, 2007). The primary determinants of informalisation in organised manufacturing are labour market regulations, and competition from exports and education, among other factors (Goldar and Aggarwal, 2010). However, informal employment opportunities in processing and service industries have increased tremendously at household and small-sector levels, resulting in a complex pattern of growth in informal settlements to house informal workers (Chakrabarti, 2001).

These informal settlements of low- and moderate-income groups lack sufficient access to land, land development programs and the associated infrastructure necessary for providing basic amenities (Durand-Lasserve, 2006). The urban poor, in the absence of land tenure and a social safety net, are rendered more vulnerable by the ‘non-inclusive’ infrastructure development plans that create formal land and housing markets and large-scale land ownership programmes at the cost of those in informal settlements. In India, informal settlements can be registered, legal or illegal, or promised (Banerjee, 2002 In: Durand-Lasserve and Payne 2002), without amenities such as clean drinking water, sanitation (sewerage, drainage and solid waste disposal) facilities, which reinforce poverty, inequality and vulnerability to human-made and natural disasters.

## 1.2 Vulnerability to climate-related risks in urban informal settlements

Those living in dangerous locations (such as low-lying areas) and in poor-quality housing are more prone to risks due to natural hazards and disaster events. Their vulnerability is also influenced by their age, gender and health status, and the resources each individual household possesses. The severity of the impacts of climate change-related risks needs to be considered from the perspective that the urban centres in low- and middle-income countries are vulnerable, not necessarily due to the hazards or disaster events themselves, but because of the inadequacy of infrastructure and services which should play a risk-reducing role (Satterthwaite *et al.*, 2007).

This brings forth the crucial role of adequately planning for urban development. Urban centres need to anticipate and plan for urbanisation arising from rural-urban population shifts, the emergence of employment opportunities in the service sector, and the merging of city boundaries with peri-urban areas. Many migrant workers and their families work in the informal economy, facing challenges in terms of inclusion in the city. It is also a challenge to provide basic amenities such as water, shelter and sanitation to existing and immigrant populations with already limited economic and natural resources. This is particularly so when there are additional pressures from climate change impacts. But these basic services play an essential risk-reducing role and contribute to the resilience of the vulnerable and marginalised populations living in informal settlements against natural and human-made calamities.

Urban policy interventions should consider building climate change resilience as a part of an environmental green governance agenda and inclusive urban development. Urban resilience is defined as the capacity of ‘cities to function, so that the people living and working in cities – particularly the poor and vulnerable – survive and thrive no matter what stresses or shocks they encounter’ (Arup, 2014). Thus, to build the resilience of cities and their populations, measures to reduce exposure to hazards and to build adaptive capacity of the residents are required.

### 1.3 Climate vulnerability and loss and damage interlinkages

To address the risks posed by climate change, Satterthwaite *et al.* (2007) emphasise the need to identify pre- and post-disaster vulnerabilities and prepare for future risks. Data on disaster induced-loss and damage can provide estimates of the costs faced by vulnerable groups and households. Such data on loss and damage can also help identify entry points for building climate resilience. Estimations of loss and damage in urban contexts can include impacts on infrastructure facilities such as water, electricity, sanitation and drainage, transport and communication, and services (IIED 2014). Hallegatte *et al.* (2008) classifies impacts of climate change into two broad categories: the market impacts (asset losses) and non-market impacts (affecting human health and biodiversity, for example). Market impacts are those for which an uncontroversial assessment of monetary value is possible. These impacts can be direct, such as a cost or loss due to physical damage, and indirect, such as loss in production activity, or loss of employment opportunities.

Non-market impacts of climatic effects cannot be easily quantified in monetary terms due to the difficulties associated with estimating them. For example, when assessing the impact on health, the loss of working days and associated loss in income, plus the cost of medical treatment, may give us an estimate of economic loss to an individual, but valuations of long-term health impacts and quality of life due to ailments are difficult to quantify. Several methods for quantification of the value of human life – such as Value of Statistical Life, VSL; or Disability-Adjusted-Life Years, DALYs – have been developed but are controversial. Further, it can be hard to quantify the losses faced by those in the informal sector for whom a home may also serve as a place of work and place to store assets – damage to a home can therefore have multiple impacts, both economic and non-economic.

Assessments of climate-induced loss and damage exist to a certain extent in the policies of states in their adaptation, coping and impact assessment plans and reports. However, irrespective of adaptation and coping mechanisms applied, there are likely to be economic and non-economic losses due to climate change (Warner, Huq and Loster., 2012). Furthermore, estimates for loss and damage cannot be aggregated through large-scale climate change impact modelling. It requires development of estimates with detailed ‘knowledge of local contexts’ before generalising vulnerability of urban centres in developing countries (Satterthwaite *et al.*, 2007).

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## 1.4 Objectives of the study

This study seeks to assess the loss and damage suffered by urban poor residents due to extreme and slow onset climate variability events, and the effects of this loss and damage on their well-being. It confines itself to direct and indirect economic loss and damages due to waterlogging and floods. It does not involve answering the ethical questions of valuation of human life, biodiversity of urban ecosystems, and loss of quality of life due to ill health.

This study has been undertaken to answer some key questions, which will contribute to the understanding of climate-induced loss and damage in rapidly growing urban areas from the perspective of the urban poor. The specific research questions are:

- (i) In what ways do low-income households in Indore experience the effects of floods and waterlogging, with specific reference to economic losses and household losses; and
- (ii) What measures are being taken by low-income households to cope with the loss and damage suffered as a result of floods and waterlogging?

To answer these questions, the study undertook a direct and indirect economic loss estimation by conducting household-level and community-level interviews in the city of Indore. In addition, interviews with municipal officials supplemented the community-level information.

## 2 Complexity of the urban context

### 2.1 Climate vulnerability and the urban poor in India

The urban population in India has increased from 37.8 per cent as per the 2001 Census to 42.6 per cent in 2011 (Government of India Census, 2011). This rapid urbanisation has created challenges in the provision of basic amenities to all urban residents. The employment opportunities for unskilled workers has contributed to the growth of informal settlements as people move to cities for employment, but these settlements are highly exposed to natural and human-made hazards (Parikh *et al.*, 2014). More than 90 per cent of the populations exposed to floods live in Asia (UN, 2004). The lack of capacity and resources within government institutions and their policies to address this remain a challenge. The poverty and inequality faced by the urban poor drives their vulnerability to natural hazards.

Satterthwaite *et al.* (2007) identify three main drivers that can increase vulnerability: (i) urbanisation and urban change, (ii) weaknesses and incapacities of governments, and (iii) expansion of cities into high-risk areas. Economic and urban development should be ideally framed in policies and governance structures that reduce and remove differentials in risks to loss and damages between high- and low-income populations (Satterthwaite *et al.* 2007). This implies that a holistic approach needs to be developed for mapping hazard-prone areas, and developing and implementing land use plans based on such maps. Moreover, the working poor in low- and middle-income countries remain excluded from decision making and planning procedures, mainly due to exclusionary policies and procedures (Brown *et al.*, 2014).

Low-income urban residents are usually vulnerable because the informal settlements in which they live lack basic infrastructure (Banerjee, 2002). Their informal tenure situation also restricts their access to housing loans, shelter improvement or compensation for relocation. However, there are cases where informal communities have successfully secured tenure, with the support of civil society and social movements, or through a state-driven approach. The types of land tenure in different cities in India can take various forms: legal tenure; a guarantee to continued occupation; informal assurances from local leaders; regularisation; and declaration as a notified slum. Ensuring secure tenure can remove one of the underlying drivers of vulnerability which inhibits investment in risk-reducing infrastructure in informal settlements.

Unplanned urbanisation and urban development can enhance the vulnerability of low-income urban residents to climate-related and human-made hazards in urban areas (Reed *et al.*, 2013; Nasrin, 2013). In their study covering 10 cities across Asia, Reed *et al.* (2013) found a clear linkage between waterlogging and poor flood water management to inadequate systems of solid waste management, sewerage and in-filling lakes and streams. Studies focused on Dhaka city (Alam *et al.*, 2006; Mowla, 2013) reveal that inadequate solid waste disposal services, lack of adequate public water supply and traffic congestion, in conjunction with problems of waterlogging, air pollution, noise pollution and hill cutting lead to severe environmental degradation. These problems will often have disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable residents of a city, and thus cause them to experience more debilitating loss and damage that can drive them into a cycle of poverty. Box 1 highlights some of the challenges and drivers of climate vulnerability found in urban contexts, including in Indore, and which underpin the study.

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## Box 1. Features of urban centres linked to vulnerability to climate change-induced events

- Concentrated populations due to concentrated labour markets/income-earning opportunities;
- Land markets in which land costs often exclude most or all low-income groups from “official” land-for-housing markets;
- Large sections of the population living in housing constructed informally – with no attention to health and safety standards and no regulatory framework to protect tenants;
- High-density populations plus concentrations of their solid and liquid wastes;
- Large, impermeable surfaces which disrupt natural drainage channels and accelerate run-off;
- Patterns of urban form and buildings that do not take current and future hazards into account, which generate increased scales and levels of risk from floods, landslides, fires and industrial accidents; and
- Inadequate planning and poor design generating secondary risks.

Source: Adapted from Satterthwaite *et al.*, 2007.

## 2.2 Indore City

Indore is a densely populated city in western Madhya Pradesh: its population of 2,170,000 lives in an area of 526 square kilometres (PRIA, 2014). The Indore metropolitan area has a population of 3,277,000. In part of the city’s centre, the population density is as high as 3,727 persons per square kilometre. Like many other middle-level cities in India, Indore’s population is growing at a rapid rate of four to five per cent per annum, which is higher than the national growth rate (Taru, 2012). The Census of India records that more than 65 per cent of all statutory towns in the country have squatter settlements or slums, and they form about 18 per cent of the households. Of Indore’s 590,000 households, there are 114,000 households living in slums – this is 27 per cent of the population, which is the highest rate in informal settlements in the state of Madhya Pradesh (National Informatics Centre, Madhya Pradesh, 2016). Almost half (42 per cent) of the slum population of Madhya Pradesh live in meagre or dilapidated houses (PRIA, 2014).

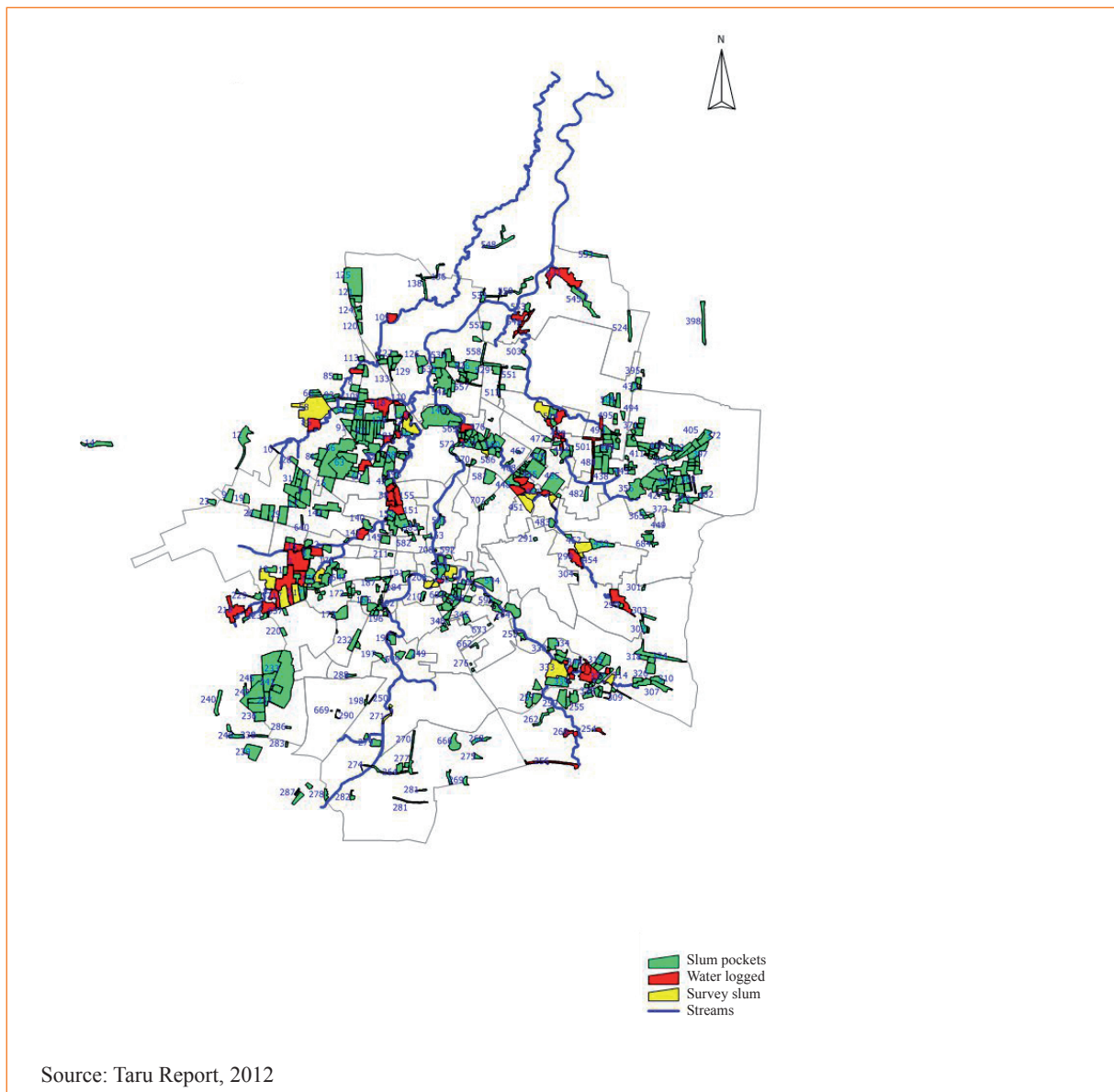
Indore is strategically located as a centre for education, healthcare and commercial trade and manufacturing services. It is surrounded by industrial areas, so it attracts a large floating population. Its principal economy is based on trade in cotton textiles, chemicals, machinery, iron and steel, food and edible oil, paper and straw board, pharmaceuticals, machine tools and accessories and educational services. Indore also happens to be the largest city and biggest commercial centre of the state, thus drawing a huge floating population from neighbouring areas for employment. In Indore most of the informal settlements are located on the watercourses of the city (UN-HSP, 2012). The construction of a new underground sewerage system in some parts of the informal settlements have benefitted residents and the rest of the city, but many parts still remain without proper drainage and sewerage systems.

The city is located in the southern part of the Malwa Plateau, which has a dry summer, wet winter and humid monsoon climate. The rainy season is marked by sustained, torrential rainfall and high humidity (Taru, 2012). The average annual rainfall for the city is around 900mm, but there is a high degree of variability. During the past decade the city has observed several unusually high rainfall days, which has caused floods and waterlogging, particularly during the years of 2005, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2014 (IMD, several issues). In recent years, waterlogging continued for several days during the monsoon season in densely populated areas of the city, mainly because of blocked drainage channels. This climate variability-induced change in rainfall pattern has resulted in intense impacts, due to poor storm water drainage systems. Residential and commercial complexes constructed in natural catchments have also blocked surface water run-off.

Additionally, solid waste generated in the city is dumped in low-lying areas, inhibiting and clogging storm water drains, which become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, insects and other disease-carrying organisms. As is often the case, these low-lying areas are also the sites of informal settlements. As Figure 1 shows, these settlements are largely in the low-lying river catchment and land prone to waterlogging and floods.

Indore is largely known for its water scarcity and arid climate, but in the past few years the city has faced the dual challenge of water scarcity in summer and waterlogging and flooding during extended and unpredictable rainy seasons. This places the communities and households at more risk. Those communities that face floods more frequently are better prepared to cope with such events, having learned from past experience. On the other hand, the communities that have not previously experienced flooding or waterlogging often neglect risk reduction measures, and hence may develop higher vulnerability (Kreibich and Thieken, 2009).

Figure 1: Map of Indore city showing the slums and river Khan's catchment



## 3 Estimating economic losses: exploring approaches

### 3.1 Role of institutions and policy

The loss and damage arising from climate-induced events and hazards depend not only on physical conditions and the intensity of the disaster, but also on the wide range of institutional arrangements, policies and economic development present. This is demonstrated by the differential impacts of the 2010 earthquakes in Chile and Haiti. The death toll in Chile was 200,000; in Haiti it was less than 1,000. The economic damage to Haiti was as high as 100 per cent of the country's GDP, but in Chile it was far less (Cavallo and Noy, 2010). The differences in susceptibility to loss and damage from a disaster lies in the resources on risk reduction efforts – including financial, technical, and legal resources and capacities.

Institutional coordination mechanisms play a significant role, including for climate-sensitive land use and urban planning and capacity building (Brown, Dayal and Del Rio, 2012; Karanth and Archer, 2014). City-level experiences of climate resilience building initiatives can be mainstreamed in the urban development plans at national level.

### 3.2 Economic loss and damage estimation

In addition to the influence of institutional arrangements, the assessment of loss and damage arising from natural hazards provides important information for policy development and adaptation planning to build resilience against weather and climate variability. To understand the costs and benefits of ex-ante risk reduction, it is important to evaluate ex-post coping mechanisms and estimate the actual costs associated with these (Skoufias, 2012; Satterthwaite *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, in Indore, an assessment of loss and damages due to floods and waterlogging is essential. Serious attention to the 'loss and damage' agenda grew from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties at Doha in 2012, which emphasised equity concerns for those who contributed little to climate change but were subjected to the heaviest impacts (Morgan and Waskow, 2014).

Estimation of economic loss due to floods and waterlogging, or any climate-induced event, can be an important process of understanding vulnerability and identifying those most badly affected economically. This can inform the subsequent adaptation strategy. To adopt an adaptation strategy that adequately considers the needs of lower-income groups and marginalised populations, estimations of the losses they suffer due to climate-induced events should be carried out.

Most economic assessment studies have conventionally focused on flood design methods, including risk-oriented methods. These analyses require flood impact estimations in addition to meteorological, hydrological and hydraulic investigations. However, most have estimated impact through direct economic loss based on damage functions, which relate property damage to damage-causing factors (Merz *et al.*, 2004). Flood damage estimations inherently have large uncertainties since the damage caused is due to various parameters other than water depth, as is done in the damage function analysis. Defining the spatial and temporal limits plays a significant role in damage assessment (Merz *et al.*, 2010). Additionally, in the context of assessing flood damage suffered by those living in informal settlements, property damage would usually not be registered or recorded in official figures due to the informal nature of housing.

Damage analysis should not only depend upon the spatial scale. The flood damage estimation can be based at the local scale, estimating damage of individual buildings or parcels; and at the aggregate level-through statistical information about population, added values, business statistics or capital assets for land use units. Another challenge faced in economic loss assessments is in the selection of replacement costs or depreciated values (Merz *et al.*, 2010; Kousky, 2012). The types of damage analysis and the scales relevant to this study are presented in Table 1.

Physical vulnerability to climate change, of both animate beings and inanimate objects, leads to both direct and indirect impacts. The direct impacts can be divided into two categories: tangible impacts and intangible impacts. The direct, tangible impacts are the market impacts, the costs for which can be directly estimated from the market values of the physical assets lost. However, there are still concerns regarding whether to use the replacements costs (ie. the cost required to replace the lost asset) or the depreciated value (the cost at which it would have been sold if it were still there). The direct, intangible losses are those private, public or ecosystem assets which cannot be measured through direct market prices – such as the value of lost cultural heritage, or of the natural regulating role played by ecosystem services. For direct non-market impacts, the methods of contingent valuation (hypothetical market-based analysis) or hedonic pricing values or travel cost principles can be used (Hanley *et al.*, 2006).

The indirect impacts are difficult to measure in physical units and also because indirect losses appear as disruption in the flow of services and can appear much later after the natural disaster event has occurred. The indirect impacts can also be tangible (market impacts) and intangible (non-market impacts). The indirect market impacts can be estimated through market-based values such as per unit of service charges, wages or salaries lost. But this can create difficulties when seeking to assess such losses in the informal sector. The indirect-intangible impacts are difficult to estimate because these estimations are subject to value judgements. For example, loss of human life, trauma relating to the death of a relative or discomfort due to a physical injury cannot be quantified in terms of loss in economic output (Merz *et al.*, 2010; ECLAC, 2003; Hallegatte, 2008; Homer-Dixon, 1994).

Depending on the objective of the disaster-induced loss and damage estimation, the scale of measurement can be either micro (household or firm or forest as a unit); meso (district, industry, region or ecosystem network) or macro (national, regional or global). However, in all assessments it must be remembered that official assessments may exclude the informal sector, which is often uninsured and unrecognised in economic assessments.

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Table 1. Types and scales of damage (floods, also applicable to waterlogging)

Types of damage		Method of estimation
<b>Direct, tangible (market impacts)</b>	Damage to private buildings and contents, direct livelihood losses (in terms of human days), evacuation and rescue measures, clean-up costs	For capital assets: present value of the income flow it generates over the rest of its life span (flow variable) Or: Value of the asset as depreciated value or replacement cost (stock variable) Use values of natural stocks (eg. timber lost) Other costs as actual
<b>Direct, intangible (non-market impacts)</b>	Injuries, psychological distress, damage to heritage, impacts on ecosystems	Contingent valuation or hedonic pricing method Indirect costs of ecosystems assets (biodiversity loss)
<b>Indirect, tangible (market impacts)</b>	Disruption of public service (electricity, water, transport, community hall), disruption in private services (access to daily needs shops, communication etc.)	Public services – may often become a part of rescue operation or shelter (cost benefit analysis) Private services – business losses to the service providers; consumption losses to urban dwellers Opportunity cost for productivity (human labour)
<b>Indirect, intangible</b>	Trauma, loss of trust, interpersonal conflicts	Value of statistical life, VSL; disability-adjusted-life years, DALYs <i>(Subject to ethical questions and therefore controversial)</i> Relative deprivations, cultural contexts
Scale of assessments		Method of estimation
<b>Micro</b>	Assessment based on single elements at risk, damages for each affected object	Household-level direct market estimations for assets Household-level indirect estimation of opportunity cost Firm level estimation of losses
<b>Meso</b>	Spatially aggregated on land use units such as residential areas or administrative units	For heterogeneous pattern of land use aggregation problems
<b>Macro</b>	Large-scale spatial units' analysis, such as municipalities, regions or countries	Market-based macroeconomic output losses, sector-wise estimation Loss of production in climate-sensitive sectors

Source: Based on Merz *et al.*, 2010; ECLAC, 2003; Hallegatte, 2008; Homer-Dixon, 1994; Hanley *et al.*, 2008

Flood and waterlogging damages are assessed differently in different contexts and for specific purposes. These are required for assessing the vulnerability of households or communities, risk mapping, cost-effective flood mitigation measures, comparative risk analysis, and financial appraisal for insurance and re-insurance sectors (Merz *et al.*, 2010). The method of economic evaluation for such damage assessment also depends on the purpose. For example, it could be for designing disaster relief programmes, insurance contracts or public policy decisions (Kreibich and Thieken, 2009). Economic analysis can also be based on opportunity cost methods estimating direct and indirect costs with three-stage estimation (ie. before, during and after), as done by Danh (2014).

### 3.3 Factors influencing loss and damage

The factors influencing damage are identified as impact and resistance parameters, as given by Thielen *et al.* (2005). Impact parameters indicate the characteristics of a flood event – for example, the water depth, flow velocity and contamination – whereas the resistance parameters specify the capability (or incapability) of an object to resist the flood impact. Resistance parameters can include the size, type and structure of a building. It includes risk mitigation measures, former flood experience and early warning. Important components of impact and resistance parameters that are utilised in this study are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Components of impact parameters and resistance parameters

Parameter	Details
<i>Impact parameters</i>	
Inundation depth	Higher depth and stronger buoyancy force will cause greater damage
Duration of inundation	Longer the duration, more severe damage and longer time in recovery
Contamination	Greater clean-up costs, disinfection
Debris/ sediments	Clean up
Frequency of inundation	Cumulative effects of damage (preparedness will reduce damage)
Timing	To undertake rescue measures
<i>Resistance parameters</i>	
Use of the building	Preparedness quotient for manufacturing units would be higher than households or services sector
Building type	Single/multi-storey buildings
Building material	Construction material
Precaution	Elevated buildings
External response	Emergency measures
Early warning	Timings and comprehensibility of contents of warning

Source: Adopted from Merz *et al.*, 2010

In addition to identifying and quantifying parameters, assessments have also been based on measuring risks and vulnerability to natural hazards using indicators and indices. There are three global approaches for disaster risk identification. In one study, Birkmann (2007) juxtaposed these global approaches with one local approach to test the differences in the functions and purposes of assessment. This study compared three basic approaches: (i) *disaster risk index*, based on mortality data indicating relative vulnerability; (ii) comprehensive index encompassing disaster deficit index (DDI), local disaster index (LDI), the prevalent vulnerability index (PVI), and risk management index (RMI); and (iii) community-based risk index given in Bollin and Hidajat (2006), which quantifies risks within a community in terms of exposure, vulnerability and management capacities. There are several indexes and parametric estimation methods to estimate vulnerability to natural hazards. The hazards-infrastructure-governance-socioeconomic variables (HIGS) method, given by Parikh *et al.* (2014), is another comprehensive approach for planners and policy makers. A HIGS framework is useful for rapid vulnerability assessment and requires pooling of data from available sources only, unlike many other approaches which require large data sets, digital maps and skilled professionals.

### 3.4 Approach and methodology used

The estimation of loss and damage for urban populations can be undertaken to better indicate the specific vulnerabilities of local populations to risks from external shocks. This can start with the identification of vulnerable population through GIS mapping, census data, secondary survey records and key informants. This requires direct interactions with key informants (Sharma, 2013; Muller *et al.*, 2011). Such interaction and data collection can help to inform adaptation policies that take into account the needs of vulnerable urban poor populations, including women, children and apprentices working in the informal sector who may face extreme situations in time of natural disasters (Nwaka, 2005).

In this paper, a case study in Indore was undertaken to estimate the economic losses due to disaster events (floods) and hazards (waterlogging) faced by the vulnerable poor urban populations living in informal settlements. The main objective was to provide for well informed public policymaking by highlighting the impacts of disasters and hazards on often marginalised population groups. In this study we also use the replacement costs (in contrast to the depreciated values) as the loss incurred due to waterlogging, because for poor populations any assets lost have to be replaced as soon as possible because they are directly related to everyday survival or livelihoods.

In this study direct monetary loss assessments have been made for every sample household. Direct monetary loss is assessed by aggregating the sum of money incurred in adopting the coping mechanism plus the monetary value (replacement cost) of the items lost and damaged. This is also known as absolute damage approach. The most frequently used procedure for the assessment of direct monetary flood damage comprises three steps: (i) classification of elements into homogenous classes; (ii) exposure analysis and asset assessment; and (iii) relative damage assessment.

### 3.5 Analysis and steps in research design

The framework used in this study largely draws from the methodology proposed by Action Aid, along with the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) merging scientific data with community knowledge (APN, 2014). To assess the life and livelihood losses and damages for the most vulnerable, this study restricts its scope to the informal settlements and poorest sections of the city of Indore.

A preparatory workshop of the team members was organised at Indore to understand the secondary data available. *The Final Report on the City Resilience Strategy* (TARU, 2012) was the basic premise for identifying the concerns of poor urban populations living in informal settlements. The identified locations are shown in Figure 1, which also shows that several of the locations were in low-lying and flood-prone watercourses near the river Kahn. The socio-economic characteristics of the populations were also known from the TARU report (2012) based on a survey conducted in 2009.

To achieve the main objectives, the analytical framework required three kinds of information. First, the vulnerability of city, which was ascertained through GIS-based maps (TARU, 2012).

Second, this GIS-based information was merged with in-depth understanding of context at the sites of waterlogging and floods. A semi-structured theme-oriented questionnaire was designed and interviews were conducted with 48 key informants and three municipal corporation officials. This also provided the role of existing (or non-existent) institutional mechanisms. The key informants were identified based on their association and long-term involvement with the community in that area. The key informants were mainly senior people living in the community, but there were also teachers from local schools, teachers from the community, and young men and women who are active in community issues and know about developments in the area. Two key informants were interviewed from each community across a total of 24 communities.

Third, to estimate household economic losses, a household survey focused on four components: (i) direct-tangible losses, (ii) direct-intangible losses, (iii) indirect-tangible losses and (iv) indirect-intangible losses. The household-level pilot survey was also undertaken to test the questionnaire design. (Please see Figure 2 for steps in research design.) The entire primary data collection at household level was undertaken in two phases and the households were selected on the basis of stratified sampling. A total of 508 households were sampled. Strata/groups of households residing in the vicinity of



waterlogging and flood-prone low-lying areas were chosen purposively and then from within every strata the households were selected randomly.

The questionnaires for all three kinds of interviews were revised based on the feedback received from field surveys and the researchers who conducted interviews with key informants, community leaders and municipal corporation authorities. In Phase II of the survey, the revised questionnaires were canvassed. Subsequently, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in six communities to assess the community level understanding of the role of institutional arrangements, viz., community, government and non-government, with reference to reducing vulnerability to the hazard of waterlogging and floods. The participants included both men and women and were chosen from the groups of households prone to waterlogging and flooding more often. The discussions in the community also included participatory resource mapping, which was themed around the availability of infrastructure resources and services required to cope with the disasters.

## Figure 2. Steps in research design for the case study of Indore

<b>Preparatory workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Secondary data discussions for socio-economic background of Indore and Madhya Pradesh (4 participants)</li> <li>■ GIS-based maps from TARU study to identify study locations</li> </ul>
<b>Phase I Questionnaire design and survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Preparation of questionnaires for               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Key informants</li> <li>(ii) Municipal corporation authorities</li> <li>(iii) Main stakeholders (households)</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Preparation of tool for direct data entry on electronic device</li> <li>■ Conducting survey at identified places</li> </ul>
<b>Phase II Revision of questionnaire Key informant survey Interviews with Municipal Corporation officials Focus group discussions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Detailed interviews with key informants with revisions (48 key informants from 24 communities)</li> <li>■ Households interviewed at different locations (508 households)</li> <li>■ Interviews with municipal corporation officials from water supply, sewerage and drainage departments, roads and transport management and disease and epidemic prevention departments (3 officials)</li> <li>■ Focus group discussions (in 6 communities)</li> </ul>

### 3.6 Questionnaire design and survey

Community key informant interviews were semi-structured to provide ample scope to take into account the subjective understanding of the communities regarding weather and climate variability, water and sanitation needs, preparedness and so on. The household survey was structured and elaborate, and included collection of data on asset profile, liabilities, amenities, occupation, age, income and expenditure. It also included concerns and risks related to waterlogging and floods, losses in terms of assets and livelihoods, coping mechanisms, health risks and so on. The community-level interviews and household questionnaires were both designed according to the collection of specific information as categorised and presented in Table 3. For the household survey, 508 households were selected, which included 468 households affected by



waterlogging and/or floods during the past 10 years. The remaining 40 households were selected as a control group; they were from the same 24 communities but had not been affected by either waterlogging or floods because their dwellings were not near watercourses.

### Table 3. Community and household questionnaires

Types of questionnaires	Details
Socio-economic profile of the community (Community key informant interview)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) City profile, hazard exposure, infrastructure, services, institutions, investment capacity</li> <li>(ii) Quality of housing, road, transportation (public), electricity, drainage, sewerage, location in the city/distance from city centre, health centre/hospital/private clinic, public/private/government school, broad income classes, employment type, migration status, existence of informal and formal production and sales activities</li> </ul>
Impact and understanding of climate variability/extreme events induced loss at community level (Community key informant interview)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Does local government consider climate risk as important? Is waterlogging and climate variation a part of its planning?</li> <li>(ii) Community dynamics, livelihoods dependence on external and internal factors and linkages, livelihoods dependence on local/public/private resources (natural and man-made capital), ownership and areas</li> <li>(iii) Is there any perceived change in seasonal calendar, observations from past 10 years</li> <li>(iv) Vulnerability matrix and assessment: hazard intensity, duration, livelihood vulnerability, coping strategy, constraints in adopting new technology or mechanism</li> </ul>
Socio-economic profile of households (Household questionnaire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Demographic age, gender, health, education</li> <li>(ii) Quality of housing, location, roof, floor</li> <li>(iii) Household assets: mobile, radio, TV, fridge, mixer grinder, etc.</li> <li>(iv) Occupation assets: cart, cycle, motorised vehicle, machine, equipment, auto rickshaw</li> <li>(v) Quality of service provision to the household due to external factors and internal factors, electricity, drainage, seepage, commercial shop, ration shop, fuel kerosene/LPG availability</li> <li>(vi) Vulnerability assessment: loss of life/livelihood/working days/human days family labour, paid labour, erosion of assets, medical expenditure, non-climatic drivers for vulnerability</li> </ul>
Impact of waterlogging and floods (Household questionnaire - part B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Waterlogging: frequency, duration, inundation levels, when/season Floods: frequency, duration, inundation levels, when/season</li> <li>(ii) Occupation impacts: site related (for construction workers/casual labourers), procurement roadblocks (for small businesses raw material etc.), distribution roadblocks (sale activity), informal employment affected by rains/waterlogging/floods, house maids</li> <li>(iii) Access to services and facilities market, school, hospital, workplace, transportation, electricity, food, fast moving consumer goods</li> </ul>

## 4 Empirical results

### 4.1 Socio-economic and risk profile of communities

Among the waterlogging-prone communities selected for the investigation, more than 50 per cent of households were categorised as slums in seven of those communities. This was according to information gained from key informants interviewed from registered slum locations. The registered slums have secure land tenure, but they have high population densities and poor basic amenities, including electricity supply, water supply, sewerage and drainage systems. More than half the houses in these communities were single storey, and more than 50 per cent of their population were illiterate. More than 50 per cent of the roads in these communities were kutcha roads, which are not laid with concrete/bricks/stones and get washed away with rains/floods. Further more, more than half the households had no private or government healthcare facility in the vicinity.

Table 4 provides details of the demographic, occupational structure, household income/economic group types, community groups and self-help groups and infrastructure facilities of the surveyed settlements/communities. More than 65 per cent of the settlements surveyed had at least a private health clinic, but 77 per cent of the community respondents felt that the clinics either did not or were not able to provide support during the flood event. All communities had a primary school, while 93 per cent had a secondary school — these schools would remain closed during floods but not during other waterlogging days.

About 40 per cent of the communities had a community hall built either by the municipal corporation or through religious donations/trust funds. More than half of the communities reported they had been moved to the community hall for three to four days during heavy rains. These were the households (in five communities) located within 10 metres of a stream. These streams are part of small tributaries forming the river Khan catchment, but they have now become open drainage lines. Almost half of the key respondents reported that the flood events and consequent waterlogging had become more frequent and seriously impacted daily activities of the household after the year 2000. This also threatened the safety of commuters, including motorcycle riders, old people and children, who could fall on the road or meet with an accident (also reported by Chen, 2014). One of the key informants stated: “As most of the slum areas are near low-lying ‘nallas’ which act as drainage for storm water there is always a risk of waterlogging and flooding during monsoon season. However, we continue to live here because we get employment as informal service providers to the townships built nearby.”

Table 4. Socio-economic profile of the sample communities

Details/Categories (Figures in No. of communities)	None	< 25%	25-75%	>75%	Total
Literate population	5	8	9	2	24
Business as occupation	7	13	3	1	24
Administration as occupation	4	9	7	4	24
Technical like mechanics, drivers etc.	7	12	4	1	24
Households with monthly income < \$US80*	5	6	10	3	24
Households with monthly income between \$US80-160	2	7	11	3	24
Households with monthly income > \$US160	8	11	5	0	24
Informal houses	6	7	6	4	24
Brick-walled formal houses	6	5	8	5	24
Individual household with water supply	8	3	4	9	24
Individual household with groundwater /bore-well	3	9	3	6	24

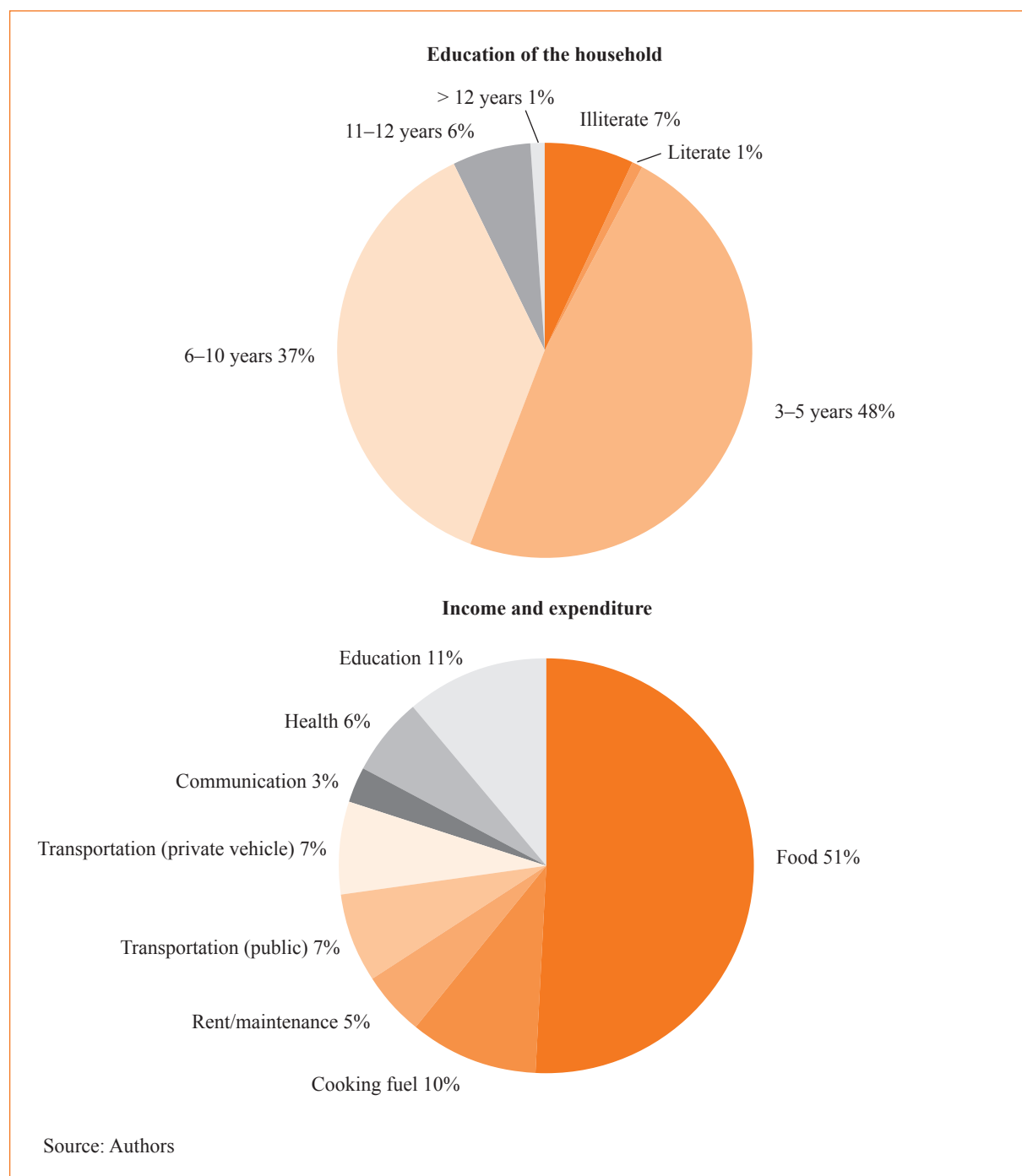
\* Currency Conversion rate 1 USD =67.15 INR

## 4.2 Households' income, assets and infrastructure

The household survey was conducted for a sample of 508 households. Due to one household not completing the survey, the set of descriptive analysis presented here refers to 507 households. The average household size is 5.29, the sample population is equal to 2,689 persons and the gender ratio is 908 women to 1,000 men. The sample population demographics also indicate a clear gender bias, with only 13.5 per cent of women being in paid employment. In terms of age breakdown, 32.5 per cent were under 17 years of age, 63 per cent were aged between 17-60 years and 4.5 per cent were older than 60. Of the total sample population, more than 55 per cent had less than three years of formal schooling (Figure 3).

The household income, asset and debt structure and access to basic amenities play a vital role in reducing vulnerability of populations from climate-induced and other natural hazards. The income pattern of the sample population shows that average monthly income per household is as meagre as \$US147.72 and average total household monthly consumption expenditure is \$US83.35 (Table 4). Economic theory suggests that the larger the proportion of expenditure on food and energy out of total income, the poorer the household. On average 42.21 per cent of the household income is spent on food consumption and 8.63 per cent on cooking fuel (Figure 3, panel 2). The amount of money borrowed for purchasing a house was as high as \$US892.74 per household (by 5.32 per cent of households) and \$US1209.67 for business establishments (by 5.31 per cent of households). About 7.09 per cent of households reported that they had incurred debts for meeting consumption expenditure – on average, this was \$US1,617.29 per year.

Figure 3. Education status and average share in monthly expenditure



About 80 per cent of the households lived in small cement houses with an average floor area of 450 square feet. Access to basic amenities including electricity, sanitation, sewerage systems, drainage management and solid waste disposal are presented in Table 5. The table reveals that only 11.41 per cent of households have metered electricity connections (registered under power supply corporation). The average monthly electricity bill is about \$US10.36. For unmetered connections the payment is made at a fixed rate based on possession of a refrigerator, TV, food processor, and the number of fans and light bulbs. Three-quarters of the sample households had individual toilets at home, but only 58.27 per cent of these homes had toilets connected to a proper sewerage system. The remaining 24.41 per cent of households with

individual toilets released their sewerage into open drains, whilst 17.13 per cent of households still defecate in the open. Just 34.06 per cent of households could connect their wastewater drainage to the municipal corporation's drainage lines and only 10.43 per cent of households were connected to the municipal corporation's solid waste disposal system.

**Table 5. Basic amenities of the sample households**

Amenity	Type of facility available	% of households	Sub-Total % of households
Electricity	Metered connection	11.41%	
	Unmetered connection	88.38%	99.8 <sup>a</sup>
Sanitation Facility	Individual	74.80%	
	Shared/communal	7.87%	
	Open	17.13%	99.8 <sup>a</sup>
Sewerage Drainage (households with access to toilets)	Drainage line/ST	58.27%	
	Open drain	24.41%	82.7 <sup>b</sup>
Drainage Management (households with drains connected to their house)	MC	34.06%	
	Private contractor	7.87%	
	Self	26.97%	68.9 <sup>c</sup>
Solid Waste Disposal	MC	10.43%	
	Burn the waste	0.79%	
	Dump on the street	14.37%	
	Dump in the stream	74.21%	99.8 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> 0.2% households did not want to respond to this question

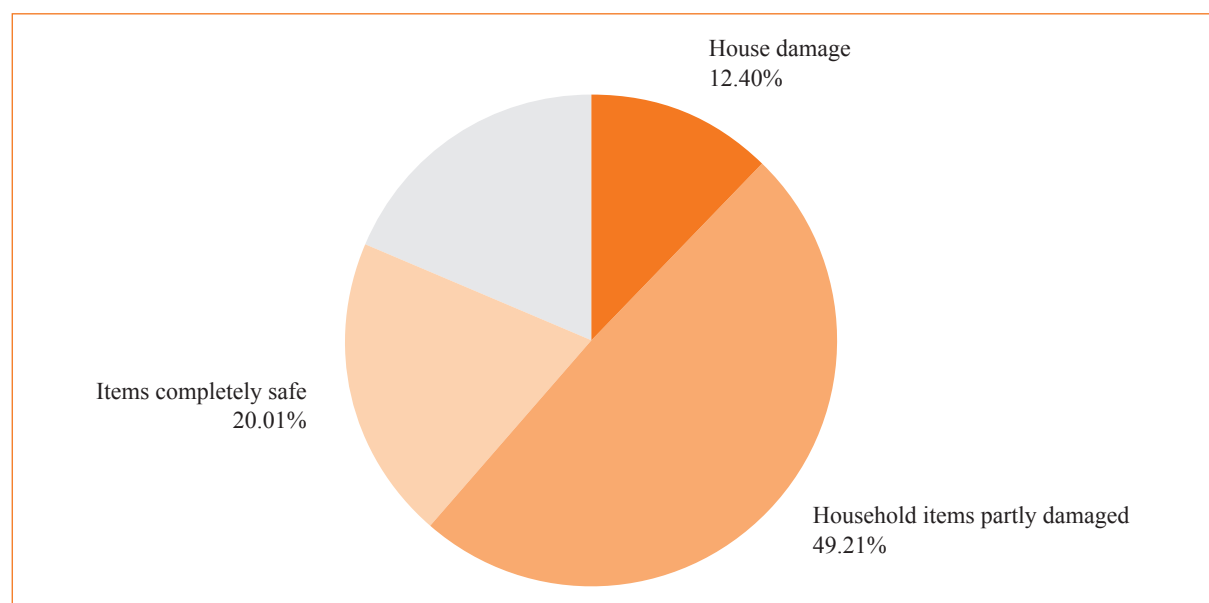
<sup>b</sup> this total covers only the 82.7% of households which had access to toilets (individual or shared)

<sup>c</sup> this total covers only the proportion of households with drains connected to their houses

## 4.3 Impact of waterlogging and floods

Informal settlements vulnerable to waterlogging and located close to streams used as open drains were chosen on purpose for the study. Communities and households that had experienced floods and/or waterlogging during the past 10 years were surveyed and recorded. Waterlogging inside the house was reported by 88.2 per cent of households, and this was during heavy rainfall for about three to four days on average but less than 10 days on the whole. Some households (2.75 per cent) also reported they had experienced waterlogging inside the house for between 10 and 30 days. The households reported that the waterlogging and flooding had impacted them adversely almost every year between 2001 to 2014. However, the loss and damage estimations presented in this study refer to the year 2013. In the year 2013, Indore city experienced very heavy rainfall during some days and an above normal monsoon for entire rainy season. The households suffered loss and damage to the house, household items, and business losses. After the monsoon period was over, in the first quarter of 2014, the households started preparing and adopting coping mechanisms in case of floods and waterlogging in 2014 also. The depth of water inside 63.35 per cent of households during the peak rainy season was reported to be higher than one metre, leading them to find alternative ways to cope with such a situation. About 12.40 per cent of households reported damage to their house/building, while 49.21 per cent reported that household possessions were damaged (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Damage due to waterlogging on house and household items



From the damage reported in Figure 4, the loss in monetary and value terms was estimated by each household. They were asked to rate the damage to their household and loss of livelihoods according to whether they thought it had a low, moderate, severe or no impact. Based on the quantity and quality of assets lost and the number of working days lost, the monetary values of these losses was estimated (see Figure 5). Few households (2.36 per cent) reported to have incurred business losses, which were on average \$US63 during 2013.

In terms of disease occurrence in households during the rainy season, 37.5 per cent of households reported at least one member had fallen ill during the years when the floods and/or waterlogging was experienced (see Table 6). The total economic losses for the entire sample – due to loss of livelihood days, house and household items, business assets and medical costs – was estimated to be \$US106,932.60 for one year (Table 7). The losses are estimated for the specific rainy season in which the household suffered the loss. The average losses incurred by sample households due to (i) loss of livelihood (\$US82.94 as severe and \$US21.59 as low), and (ii) damages to house and household items (\$US849.69 as severe and \$US71.33 as low). The average losses are illustrated in Figure 5.

Table 6. Incidence of disease occurrence during the rainy season (2013)

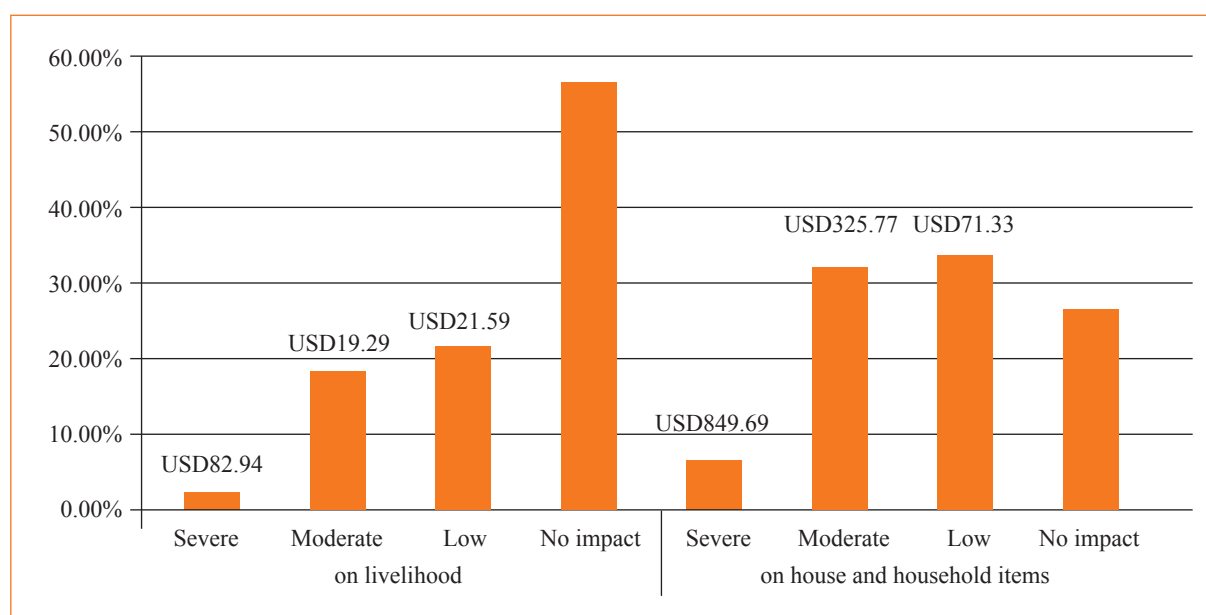
Particulars	Disease occurrence
Diseases	Fever (50%), malaria (24.80%), cough (19.88%), diarrhoea (11.22%), dengue (6.1%), cold (4.53%), typhoid (0.98%), chikungunya (0.6%), jaundice (0.39%)
Duration of occurrence	July to September (37.40% households reported illnesses)
No. of persons fallen ill	Members in household (22.69%) Males (13.61%) Females (9.07%)

Table 7. Total economic losses due to waterlogging perceived in value and monetary terms for sample (2013)

Type of loss	Amount in USD
Livelihood	5,324.16
Household assets	9,6211.40
Business assets	1,269.79
Medical costs	4,127.27
Total	106,932.60

\* Currency conversion rate 1 USD = 67.15 INR

Figure 5. Average economic losses due to waterlogging perceived in value and monetary terms for sample (2013)



Waterlogging and floods have been more common since the year 2000 in Indore, so the population is expected to prepare before the rainy season to reduce losses where possible. As a consequence, households have adopted various kinds of coping mechanisms (see Figure 6), some of them multiple. For example, about 55 per cent of households have raised the plinth in the front of their house to prevent inundation, and similarly 55 per cent of households have chosen to shift to another house. Fewer households have opted for construction of a new first floor, probably because it is the most expensive coping mechanism (\$US345.42 per household). Shifting house has, on average, been a cheaper option since most of the households shift from rented/owned house to a rented house.

In addition to seeking perceived and economic losses, this study also explored the understanding and willingness of households to receive and contribute to resilience building and adaptation. It found that institutional support was sought in the forms of access to credit, easy insurance, livelihood support, provisioning of clean water during the rainy season, clean drainage to prevent diseases and discomfort, medical support, temporary shelter, access to information in advance, and food and other daily needs. The households were also asked how willing they were to contribute to resilience building (see Figure 7). This exercise was designed to evaluate their willingness to pay for resilience building, but because most of the surveyed households belonged to poor or very poor categories, their willingness to pay was modified to willingness to contribute. Such contributions would include labour, skilled labour, food or essential requirements in kind instead of cash.

Figure 6: Coping mechanisms and their costs as adopted by sample households (values per households)

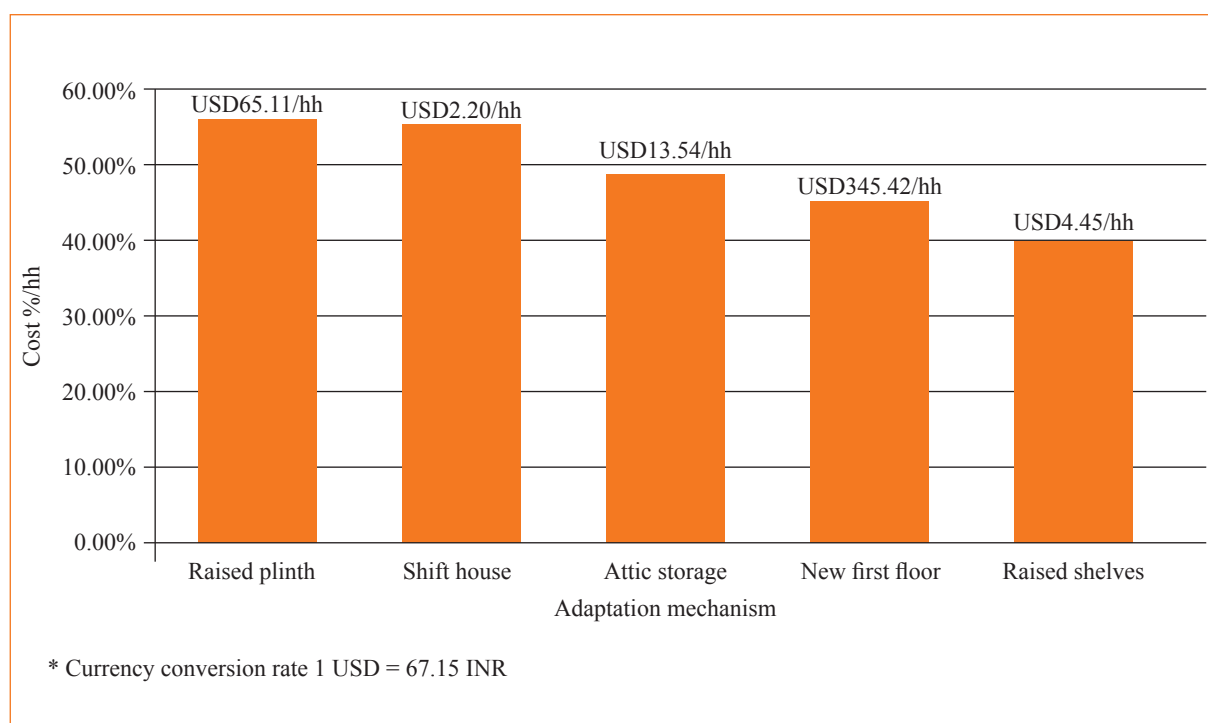
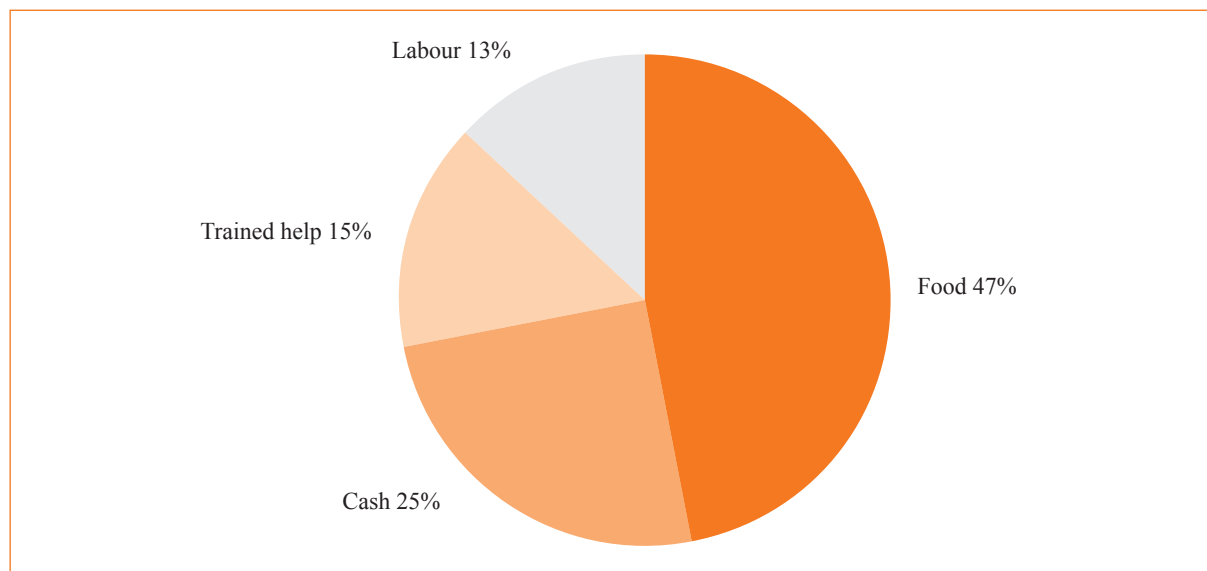




Figure 7. Willingness to contribute towards resilience building



## 4.4 Role of municipal corporations (local governments)

The District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) Indore is prepared as stipulated under the Disaster Management Act 2005. Its primary aim is to mitigate and manage disasters. The DDMP document principally covers institutional arrangements, hazard vulnerability, risk and capacity analysis, and district-level disaster management planning. The institutional arrangements for disaster management include district-level disaster management committees and block-level disaster management committees. The plan includes preparedness for both climatic and human-made hazards.

As part of the study, three officials of the Municipal Corporation were interviewed: the principal chief engineer directly working for the municipal commissioner, the city engineer, and the chief medical and health officer. The officials said they were aware of the mandates and provisions under the DDMP, but due to a paucity of funds/budgetary allocations and human resources, they follow the 'response plans' as listed under the DDMP and are unable to be proactive. For some areas of the city, the preparation for storm water diversion and clearances is based on frequency, experience and vulnerability, and undertaken in the regular 'Service Level Benchmarking System of the Municipal Corporation'. This stipulates that the civil, electrical and maintenance works are undertaken and reported every year before monsoon season. In terms of preventing the spread of disease, measures such as pest control, insecticidal spray and garbage clearance from areas prone to malaria, jaundice, dengue and so on are taken by the medical and public health department of the Municipal Corporation based on reports from communities, non-government organisations and hospitals.

Historically, Indore city has been vulnerable to floods, drought, hailstorms and human-made disasters such as road accidents and industrial hazards. Within the DDMP document, mandated action plans include:

- (i) risk mitigation: training and community initiatives;
- (ii) preparedness plan: evacuation preparedness and mock drills;
- (iii) response plan: management of shelter, communication, transport, electricity, law and order, medical, relief and fire services; and
- (iv) recovery and rehabilitation plan: reconstruction, restoration of livelihoods and psycho-social interventions.

The DDMP plan also has a provision for creating a District Disaster Response Fund and a District Disaster Mitigation Fund. The coordination mechanism outlined in the DDMP includes mapping of stakeholders in Indore District from public/private/non-governmental organisations, religious institutions, academic institutions and international humanitarian organisations. The plan also outlines how to disseminate the plan.

Recently the state government published an order (Madhya Pradesh Revenue Department, 2015) on the compensation amounts available for different kinds of disasters (see Table 8). The compensation is for damage of house/dwelling.

**Table 8. Revised compensation packages for victims of natural disasters (from State Government)**

Particulars	Amount of compensation in USD	Revised amount of compensation in USD (new order)
Completely damaged	None	1,116.90
More than 50% damaged cement structure	93.82	187.64
More than 50% damaged mud/thatch structure	47.65	56.59
15% to 50% damaged cement structure	37.23	56.59
15% to 50% damaged mud/thatch structure	28.29	34.25
Damaged cattle shed	18.62	22.33

## 5 Conclusions

This impact assessment focused on direct economic losses arising from floods in Indore. Informal settlement populations were purposively chosen, in particular those located in low-lying areas subject to water logging and floods without access to services and infrastructure which can play risk reducing roles. This absence of availability and access to urban infrastructure and services renders the slum populations vulnerable in the case of natural or man-made calamities, with knock on impacts on the city's economy, due to the important role the informal settlers play in the city as labour and in providing services.

This study is based on the identification of factors causing damage and the factors which are impacted. The community and household field questionnaires included impact factors and coping (or resistance) factors. The impact factors included inundation depth, duration, contamination, incidence of diseases (both water borne and vector borne). The results are based only on descriptive analysis, but further analysis can be undertaken to analyse the relationship between these impact factors and the living and physical conditions of the settlements, and estimate the significance and impact coefficients in future. The economic loss and damage estimation in this study included loss to house, household items, business structure, business assets, human days lost in terms of livelihood days, human days lost due to morbidity/illness caused by waterlogging and flood situations, cost of seeking medical advice, hospitalisation and medicines. The total overall losses incurred by the sample households reached \$US106,932.60 for the total sample population for one year when the calamity occurred. For a sample population of 508 families, this loss is significant in terms of their relative income and assets to losses ratio.

The coping or resistance parameters include type of building (indicates preparedness quotient of the structure), precautions taken, external responses and early warning. The resistance parameters indicate the coping strategy of the households at individual and community level and it also includes building resilience to climatic or non-climatic disasters. The study analysed the resistance factors by identifying the type of building, number of floors in the building, and costs incurred in preparing/ coping with the disaster, including construction of a raised plinth, shifting to another place, creating more attic storage, construction of a new floor, or more shelves. The total cost estimated to have been incurred to prepare/cope/ adapt to the waterlogging and/or flood situation for the entire sample of households is \$US109,936.42. This estimated figure is close to the total losses reported, indicating the sample households are already spending similar amounts as a coping mechanism.

The average expenditure incurred by households towards various kinds of coping mechanisms indicates that several households are adopting more than one mechanism for coping or adaptation. Additionally the sample households were asked for their willingness to pay for building resilience to such unforeseen events in future. Due to the paucity of money at individual household level several were willing to contribute only in terms of labour/in kind through appropriate training. The focus group discussions also indicated that communities understand the role of institutions including community level institutions, local government and non-government institutions (see Appendix I). The communities could also identify resources available (including community buildings and school premises) which could be utilised by more vulnerable households during waterlogging and flood events.

The municipal corporations in India, in general, and in Indore, in particular, are in a better position since 2009, in terms of building resilience, creating effective response plans, and coordinating stakeholders, communities and institutions. This is due to the enactment of the 74<sup>th</sup> amendment of the constitution in 1992, which empowers municipal governance and independent decision making (Parikh *et al.*, 2014). However, building climate resilience as an agenda does not figure in the municipal corporations' list of priorities, since their immediate concerns include basic urban infrastructure, transportation, roads, water supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste disposal. But such improvements would contribute to the resilience of local populations, if planned and implemented with climate projections in mind. The municipal corporation and the associated authorities can be sensitised towards the importance of understanding exposure to natural hazards, vulnerability of urban areas and their capacity to adapt. The statistics presented for the sample population clearly indicate that these households are devoid of basic amenities including clean water supply, appropriate drainage, sewerage systems and solid waste disposal. Households reported they had been severely impacted during flood and waterlogging events because solid waste and waste water released in open drains enters their houses. This means their only choice is to evacuate their homes. Even after the rainy season is over the waterlogging continues on streets, leading to accidents and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects.

The datasets included in this study might underestimate the indirect losses, given that the non-market impacts or costs to the informal economy are difficult to identify and estimate. Damages across households are also not borne equally, since low-income households have less capacity to absorb the shocks and impacts of hazards. The indirect losses in terms of illnesses have been dramatically high during the rainy and waterlogging periods. The study limits itself only to the estimation of economic losses in terms of damage to houses, household items, medical costs related to illness, loss of livelihood/human days due to illness or inaccessibility, and so on. The losses in terms of lost education, lost opportunities, death, and so on are not included as they require value judgements. The loss of living quality to children, women and the elderly during heavy rains and floods is not quantified in this report.

The lack of any institutional mechanism to cope with waterlogging and flood situations is evident from the results, but the meagre amounts of compensation, food, water and temporary shelter received from the municipal corporation, nevertheless, helps. However, the distress due to inadequate sewerage, drainage, water, electricity and other amenities continues to mar the life of the inhabitants of informal settlements. The modern townships constructed (with permission from the municipal authorities) block and divert the flood and storm waters towards the slums located on these watercourses, which implies that better infrastructure is accessible to those who have better economic and social resources. This raises concerns of equity in access to (better) infrastructure and public services, and in turn, the inequitable distribution of losses suffered during flood and other hazard events. This study is also an important contribution in terms of providing an empirical estimation of costs of adaptation to climate variability in general and waterlogging and floods in particular for Indore city. More studies like these, further analysing the cost and benefits of the adaptation methods, will be useful.

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## Appendix I: Photographs from field survey and FGD



Photograph 1: Waterlogging is present even during the peak of summer. Note the narrow lanes

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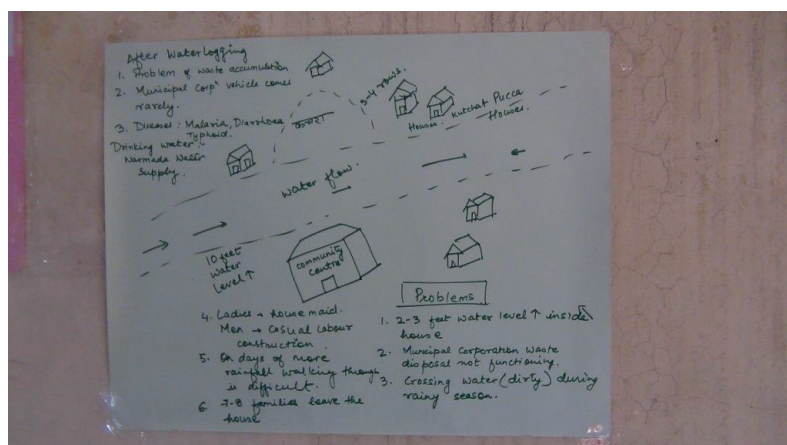




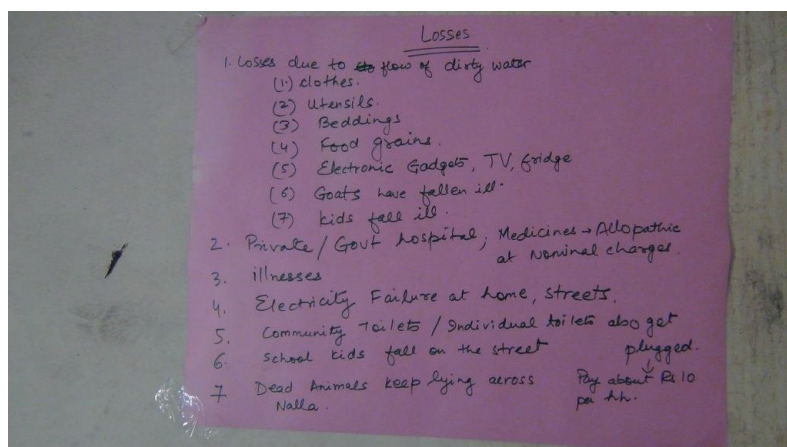
Photograph 2: Many live close to open drains prone to waterlogging and floods



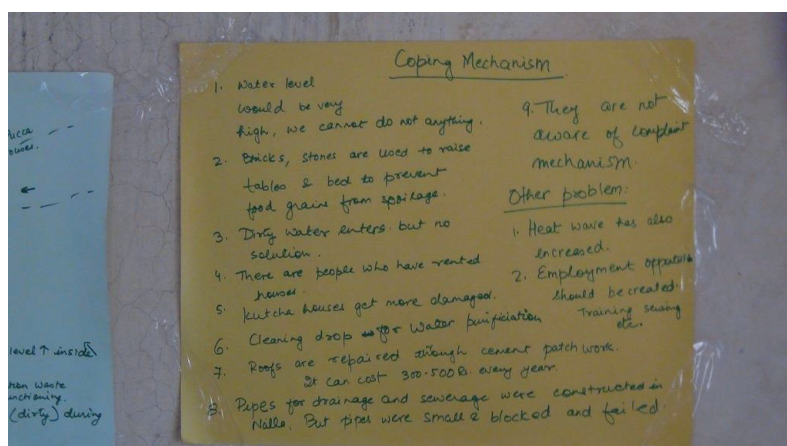
Photograph 3: A raised plinth in the front of a house is designed to prevent inundation



FGD photograph 1: PRA-based map of vulnerability to floods and waterlogging



FGD Photograph 2: Losses incurred due to floods



FGD Photograph 3: Mechanisms adopted to cope with waterlogging and floods

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# The economic impact of floods and waterlogging on low-income households: lessons from Indore, India

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## **Asian Cities Climate Resilience Working Paper Series**

This working paper series aims to present research outputs around the common theme of urban climate resilience in Asia. It serves as a forum for dialogue and to encourage strong intellectual debate over concepts relating to urban resilience, results from the ground, and future directions. The series is also intended to encourage the development of local research capacity and to ensure local ownership of outputs.

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