



भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Community Radio for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)- *A Tool for Capacity-Building, Preparedness & Response*



Presented by NDMA

***Resilience is a local agenda -
Community radio strengthening last-mile resilience in India***

Why Community Radio Matters

Last Mile Delivery Challenges



*Lack of Community Participation is the
Gap in DRR & EPR today*

India has significant advances in early warning systems; however, reaching vulnerable remain challenging:

- Episodal instead of sustained solutions on mitigation and adaptation
- Inability to build on-ground capacity
- Uneven digital access & power and telecom disruptions
- Language & trust gaps delay action

Result: Ill-equipped population, Heightened misinformation, Fear leading to chaos & larger loss

Why Community Radio Matters



People's participation in DRR through Community Radios

Enables two-way communications; not just alerts

Foster emergency preparedness equipping people with skills to act

Translates complex warnings into actionable guidance

Supports community dialogue for resilient infrastructure rebuilding

Maintain a continuous feedback loop between community & system

People's Radio = People's Voices = Real Resilience

Connecting
Last Mile

The Global Practice

The UN Sendai Framework (2015–2030) validates decentralized community radio as the globally proven safety net during disasters. International evidence demonstrates community radio's effectiveness in bridging critical

Philippines - Typhoon warning networks through community radio saved thousands of lives during super typhoons, providing real-time evacuation alerts in local dialects when cellular networks collapsed

Indonesia - Tsunami early warning broadcasts via community radio stations provided critical minutes for coastal evacuation, demonstrating effectiveness during the 2004 and 2018 events.

Nepal - Earthquake response communication through community radio maintained connectivity when traditional infrastructure failed, coordinating rescue and relief operations effectively.

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The Community Radio for Disaster Resilience: Capability Matrix

Community Radio Stations (CRS) provide a strategic advantage as an independent, resilient grid that remains operational and trusted during total infrastructure disruptions, complementing mainstream media capabilities

Capability Dimension	Mainstream Media & Internet	Community Radio Stations (CRS)
Language Resonance	Standardized state languages	Hyper-local dialects ensuring immediate comprehension
Infrastructure Dependency	Dependent on functional power grids and internet	Equipped with solar, battery backups, and satellite phones
Information Flow	Top-down, one-way broadcasting	Two-way communication with real-time field feedback
Community Trust	Distant/institutional source	Embedded, recognized local voices

The Opportunity

Turning Community Radio Stations to lifetime for recovery & resilience



- 500+ CRSs can enhance community participation in DRR, EPR and Build Back Better
- Work closely with DDMA, IMD, CWC systems
- Real-time alerts in local dialect + action guidance + misinformation control
- Two-way flow: alerts ↓, feedback ↑

From communication → coordination system

Communication & Local Dialect

- IMD / NDMA /CWC alerts (Sachet App, Damini, Mausam App, Meghdoot, FloodWatch India, BhooKamp, etc)
- Weather forecasts
- Risk advisories

Continued Capacity Building

- Call-ins, discussions
- Localised Capacity Building
- Local voices & journalists
- Women, farmers, youth engagement
- Engagement & Training of volunteers and *Aapda Mitras*

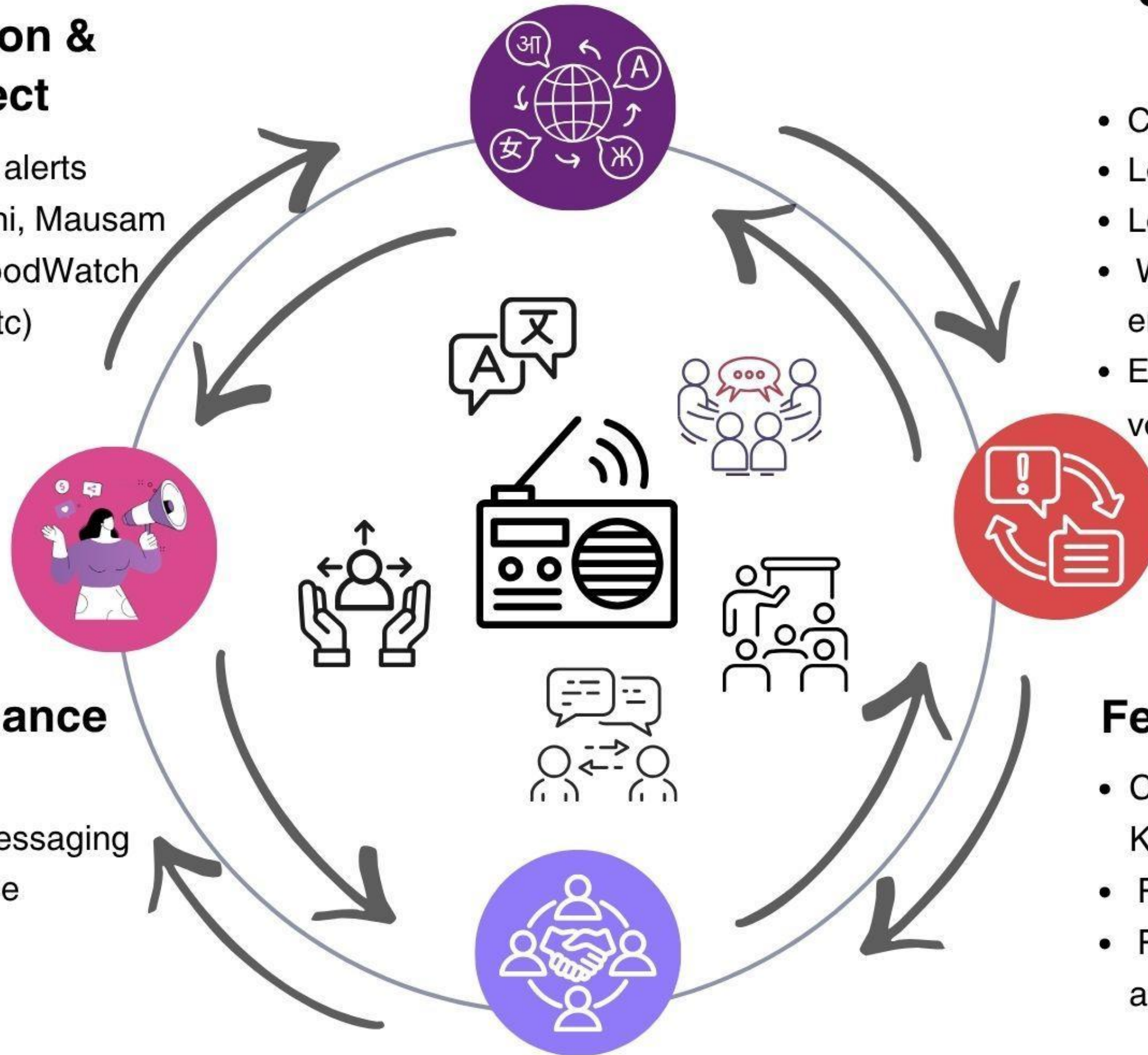
Alert & Guidance

- Local language
- Context-specific messaging
- Actionable guidance

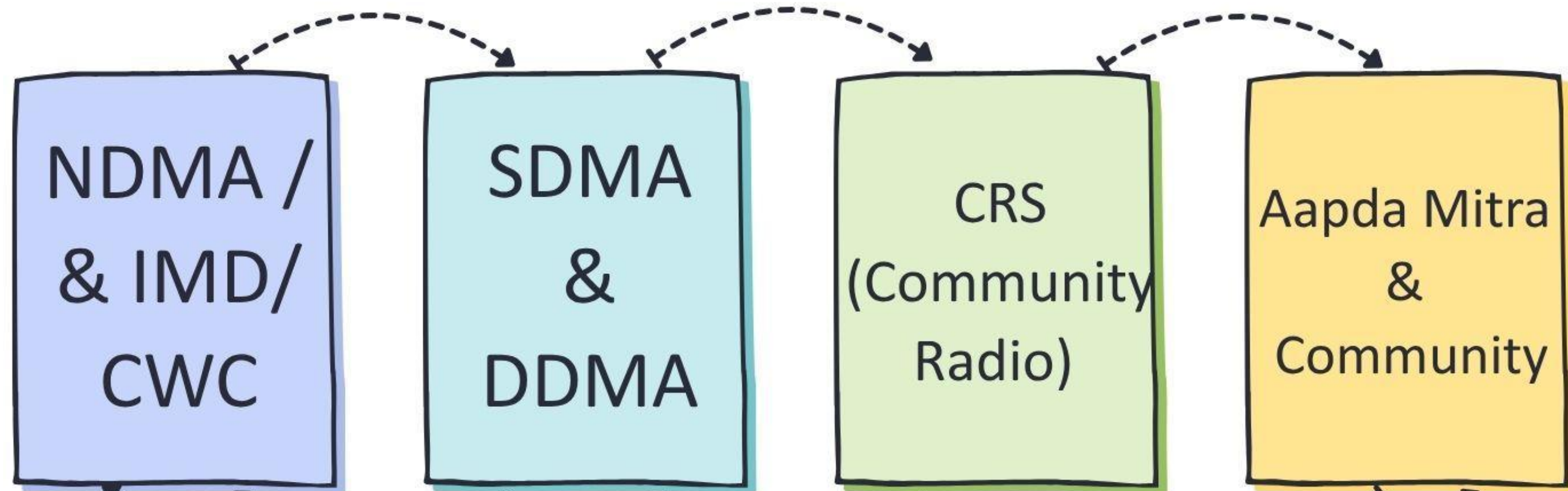
Feedback to System

- Contextualised & Local Knowledge
- Rumour control
- Real-time updates to authorities

From broadcast → To Participation → To Resilience

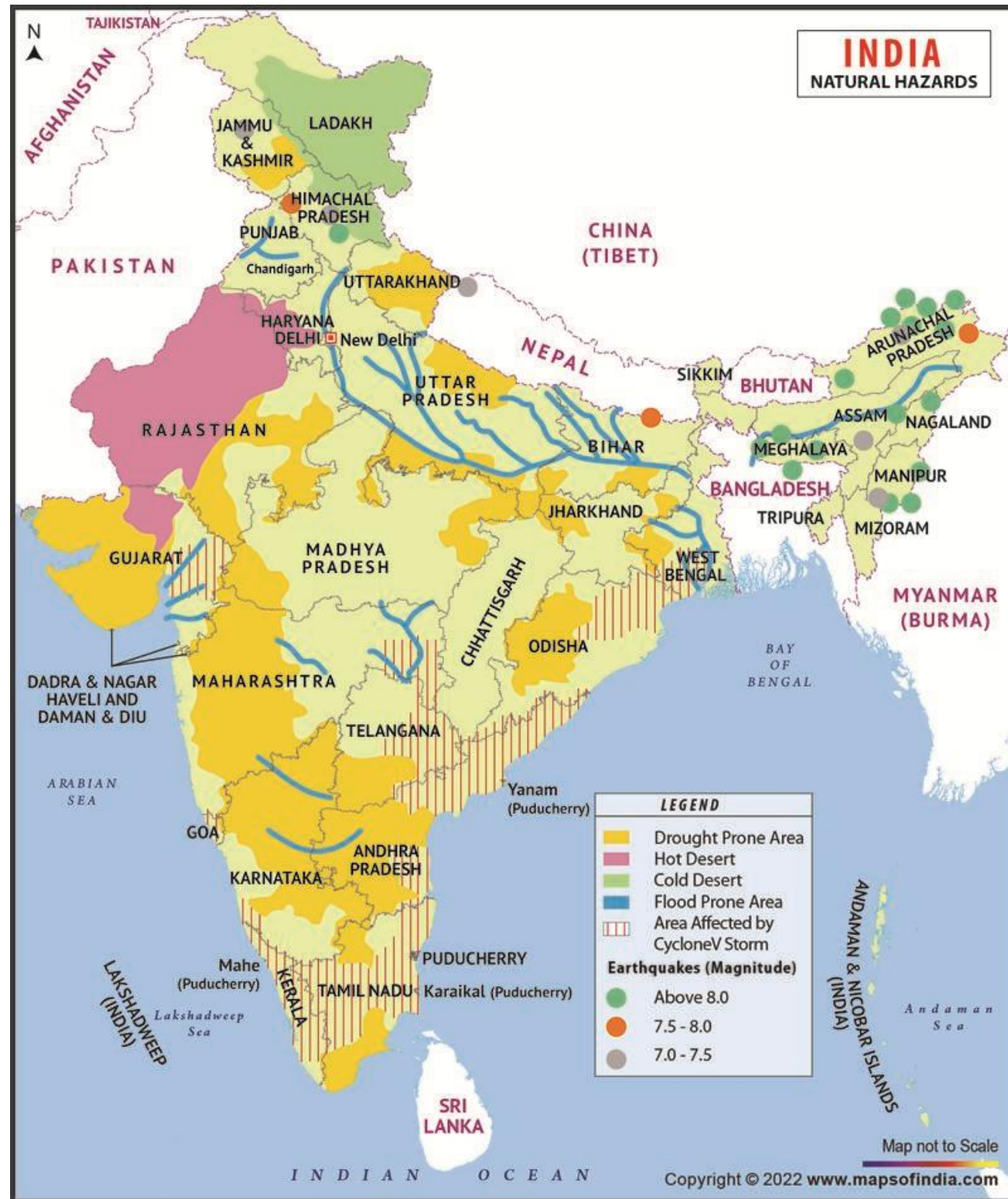


How It May Work in terms of Governance

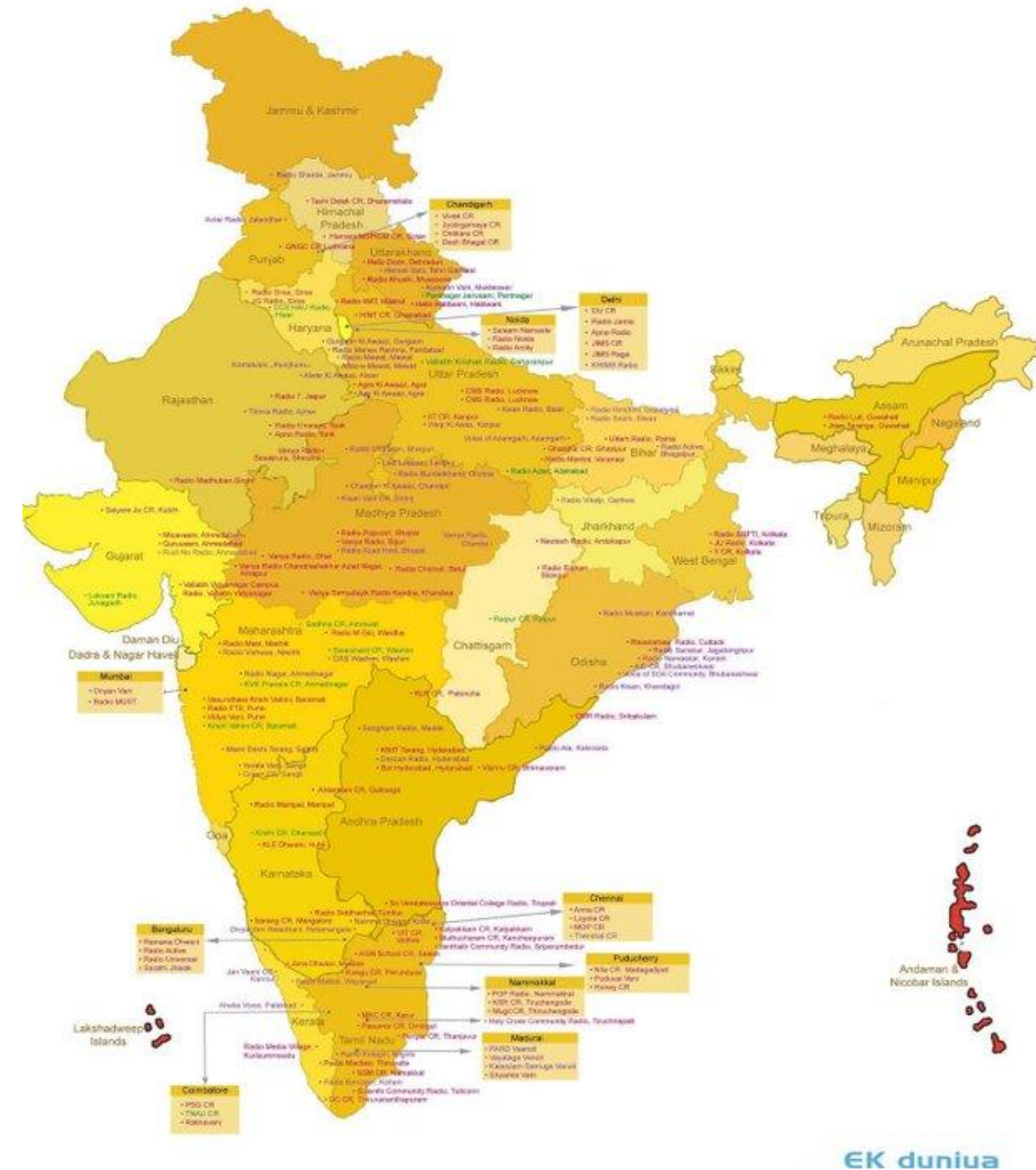


Closing The Last Mile Loop

Leveraging the CRs Network



[Multi Hazard map of India](#)



[530+ of Community Radio Stations in States](#)

The Potential: Enabling a National System

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 500+ CRS network across India
- Link CRS with NDMA / SDMA / DDMA alert systems
- Equip CRS with:
 - Solar backup
 - Emergency mobile radio kits
 - Satellite communication systems
- Strengthen and upgrade existing infrastructure



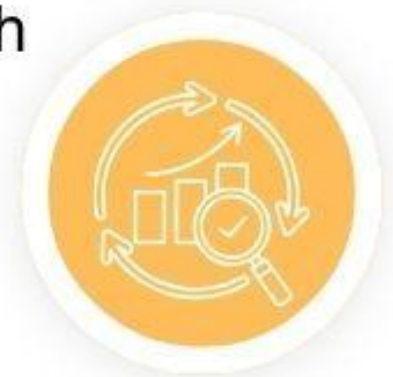
CAPACITY

- Regular capacity building of communities
- Train *Aapda Mitras*
- Enhance skills in emergency communication and coordination
- Continuous data flow for predictive insights and solutions



CONTINUED SUPPORT

- Recognize CRS as critical DRR & EPR infrastructure
- Utilize budgets from local administrations like KVK for potential CRS
- Enable funding under preparedness & capacity building
- Support “Build Back Better” recovery approach



HIGH-RISK STATE CRS NETWORKS

(Disaster Preparedness)

Very High Risk

S.No	Very High Risk State	No.of CRS	Very High Risk No.of CRS
1	North East State (Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland)	12	• Sikkim, Tripura 12
2	Sikkim, Tripura	10	• Jammu & Kashmir 10
3	Jammu & Kashmir	8	• Himachal Pradesh 8
4	Himachal Pradesh	15	• Uttarakhand 15
	Total	45	
S.No	High Risk State	No.of CRS	High Risk
1	Kerala	24	• Kerala 24
2	Karnataka	27	• Karnataka 27
3	Tamilnadu	48	• Tamil Nadu 48
	Total	99	Total 99

TOTAL: Very High Risk + High Risk = 144 CRS



अपना रेडियो अपनी बातें

Case Study

- Running since 2008 (longest climate communication initiative)
- Preparing communities by airing district office announcements on reliefs, shelter locations, first aid and health advisories
- Regular broadcasts the programme *Shubh Kal* focusing on climate change adaptations, water conservation and agricultural resilience

Radio Bundelkhand (MP/UP)



Prepared communities before crisis hits



Case Study

- Critical during 2013 Kedarnath glacial burst & floods
- Connected stranded communities with authorities
- Worked around gender related issues during disasters
- Helped coordination when systems collapsed

Real-time local communication saved lives

Mandakini ki Awaaz (Uttarakhand)





Case Study

- Operates in heatwave-prone Alwar district
- Broadcast daily advisories during extreme heat periods
- Shared guidance on: Hydration & heatstroke prevention, Safe working hours (especially for labourers) and Water conservation practices
- Promoted traditional coping mechanisms + govt advisories

Alwar ki Awaz (Rajasthan)



Improved community resilience to heatwaves

Case Study

- Played key role during Cyclone Yaas
- Delivered localized alerts and preparedness messaging
- Mobilised community participation in relief efforts

Radio Namaskar (Odisha)



*Improved community readiness in
cyclone-prone zones*



Case Study

- Works in flood-prone geographies
- Focus on early warning + community preparedness
- Engages local communities in disaster response planning

Radio Brahmaputra (Assam)



*Strengthens preparedness in
high-risk flood zones*



Case Study

- One of India's oldest campus community radios
- Played a key role during **COVID-19 pandemic**
- Broadcast verified information on:
 - Symptoms, prevention, vaccination
 - Government guidelines & helplines
- Countered misinformation in real time
- Engaged urban + peri-urban vulnerable groups

Radio Active (Bengaluru)



*Countered misinformation,
improved public health response*

Thank You

*When networks fail, communities still listen.
That is where resilience begins.*