

## Recovery with Dignity

Recovery with Dignity is a two-year project conducted by the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore and the University of East Anglia (UEA), United Kingdom. Funded by the British Academy, the project aims to understand experiences of recovery in post-disaster situations across three states in India – Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala and examine how recovery processes represent vulnerable populations.

Odisha and Tamil Nadu have a long history of disasters such as the 1999 super-cyclone and 2013 Cyclone Phailin in Odisha, and the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami and 2015 Chennai floods in Tamil Nadu. These events mobilised multiple forms of humanitarian action, through a range of stakeholders from government, civil society, and international aid agencies to the private sector and citizen groups. Despite several positive steps towards strengthening disaster management, deep structural challenges to sustainable recovery remain. Central to effective and inclusive recovery processes is how disaster-affected communities are portrayed following the event and how this shapes the recovery and other support processes that are implemented. Keeping this in mind, **the Recovery with Dignity project aims to cover the evolution of post-disaster management, with a detailed focus on how the losses, long-term needs and voices of affected communities are represented through the media, official reporting and other mechanisms.**

We hope to take some of the lessons learnt from past recovery processes and apply this knowledge to contemporary post-disaster situations such as the recent floods in Kerala. For this, we will be conducting extensive interviews with different stakeholders in the three states as well as with actors related to disaster management at the national level. Over the course of the project, we will also have **a strong element of 'research for impact' where community engagement through local NGOs or civil society actors will be key.** Our hope is that we will be able to work directly with affected communities in Kerala to strengthen their voice in expressing their needs and capacities through both conventional means and through the creative arts.

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