



Annual Report 2025-26

In 2025–26, GeoHazards Society marked 18 years of service since its inception in December 2007, reaffirming its commitment to advancing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. During the year, the organisation placed strong emphasis on inclusiveness and resilience for all, with targeted initiatives supporting institutions serving individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Key programmes also focused on strengthening hospital and school safety across multiple states. Through strategic partnerships with international organisations such as UNDP, national institutions including NIDM, NDMA, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), as well as private sector partners like the Mariwala Health Initiative, GHS expanded its outreach and impact. These collaborations enabled the organisation to engage with diverse vulnerable groups and stakeholders, enhancing their understanding of disaster and climate risks while supporting the development of context-specific mitigation and risk reduction strategies. For more details of our activities and reports, please visit <https://geohaz.in/activities>.

Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh (April 2025)

Building on its continued engagement in Himachal Pradesh, GeoHazards Society (GHS), in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Chamba, conducted a three-day training programme in April 2025 for senior administrative officials and key decision-makers from health facilities across the district. The sessions focused on strengthening institutional capacity for disaster preparedness, with an emphasis on understanding local hazard profiles, risk assessment, and the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into hospital planning processes. The training methodology combined interactive lectures, scenario-based discussions, and group exercises to encourage participatory learning and practical application.

The programme enabled participants to critically examine the preparedness levels of their respective facilities and identify actionable measures to enhance safety and functionality during emergencies. Special attention was given to ensuring continuity of essential health services, coordination mechanisms, and the roles and responsibilities of hospital staff in disaster situations. The training reinforced the importance of making healthcare facilities resilient, accessible, and responsive, particularly in a geographically challenging district like Chamba.



Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Una District, Himachal Pradesh (May 2025)

In May 2025, GHS, in partnership with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Una,



organised a similar three-day capacity development programme for senior health officials and administrators across the district. The training aimed to build a comprehensive understanding of disaster preparedness within the healthcare sector, covering key aspects such as hazard identification, vulnerability analysis, hospital emergency planning, and coordination with district-level disaster management systems. The sessions were delivered through a mix of expert-led presentations, interactive discussions, and hands-on group work.

Participants gained insights into the critical need for hospitals to remain operational during crises and explored strategies to strengthen both structural and non-structural safety, as well as functional preparedness. The training also highlighted the importance of inclusive planning, ensuring that the needs of vulnerable populations are adequately addressed in emergency response mechanisms. Overall, the programme contributed to enhancing the readiness of health facilities in Una to effectively manage and respond to disasters while maintaining essential healthcare services.

Inclusive DRR Preparedness Training Session, New Delhi (May 2025)

On 28 May 2025, GeoHazards Society (GHS) delivered a focused session on *Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Preparedness* at The Blind Relief Association, New Delhi, as part of a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on *Resilient Infrastructure for Inclusive Development*, organised in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The session brought together around 50 faculty members from diverse educational institutions across India, providing a platform to integrate inclusivity into mainstream DRR discourse. The training highlighted the unique vulnerabilities faced by persons with visual impairments and emphasised the importance of designing infrastructure and preparedness systems that are accessible, safe, and responsive to diverse needs.

Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Hamirpur District, Himachal Pradesh (June 2025)

GeoHazards Society (GHS), in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Hamirpur, conducted a three-day training programme on hospital disaster preparedness for senior administrative staff and key decision-makers from health facilities across the district. The initiative aimed to strengthen institutional capacity by enhancing participants' understanding of disaster risks, preparedness planning, and the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into health systems. The sessions were delivered through a combination of expert-led presentations, interactive discussions, and group-based exercises, enabling participants to contextualise learning within the district's hazard profile and existing preparedness mechanisms.



The

training provided a platform for participants to assess gaps in hospital safety and preparedness, and to identify practical measures for improving response capacity and service continuity during



emergencies. Emphasis was placed on ensuring that health facilities remain operational and resilient in the face of disasters, aligning with district-level preparedness priorities and the role of DDMA in coordinating effective response systems. The programme reinforced the importance of structured hospital disaster management planning, regular drills, and inter-agency coordination, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools required to enhance the safety and functionality of healthcare institutions in Hamirpur.

Training on Disaster Preparedness, Harbour School (July 2025)

GeoHazards Society (GHS) conducted a training programme on disaster preparedness at Harbour School, aimed at strengthening the capacity of teachers and parents to effectively respond to emergencies. The session focused on building awareness of potential hazards, promoting safe practices, and introducing key concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in a school context. Through interactive sessions and practical demonstrations, participants were guided on preparedness measures, evacuation procedures, and the importance of coordinated response during disasters.

The training emphasised the need for schools to be safe and resilient spaces, ensuring the protection and continuity of education even during emergencies. Participants were encouraged to identify risks within their school environment and adopt simple, actionable measures to enhance safety. The programme contributed to fostering a culture of preparedness within the school community, equipping students and staff with the knowledge and confidence to act effectively in crisis situations.



Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Agartala, Tripura (July 2025)

GeoHazards Society (GHS), in collaboration with the District Administration and relevant disaster management authorities in Agartala, Tripura, conducted a three-day training programme aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities within the healthcare sector. The training brought together senior administrative personnel and key decision-makers from health facilities, focusing on enhancing their understanding of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), hospital safety, and emergency preparedness planning. Sessions were delivered through a mix of expert-led presentations, interactive discussions, and group exercises, enabling participants to contextualise disaster risks within Tripura's multi-hazard environment, which includes earthquakes, floods, and storms.

The programme emphasised the critical need for hospitals to remain safe, functional, and responsive during emergencies, with particular attention to preparedness planning, coordination mechanisms, and continuity of essential health services. Participants engaged in practical exercises to identify



gaps in existing systems and develop actionable strategies for improving institutional resilience. The training also reinforced the importance of integrating DRR into routine health system planning and adopting an inclusive, all-of-society approach to disaster management, aligned with the broader state and national frameworks.

Online Training and Handholding Support on Hospital Disaster Management Planning, Tripura (September 2025)

In September 2025, GeoHazards Society (GHS), in collaboration with the Tripura State Disaster Management Authority (TSDMA) and the Health Department, Government of Tripura, conducted a series of three online training programmes on the preparation of Hospital Disaster Management Plans (HDMPs). The first training was held on 1 September for Melaghar District Hospital, followed by a second session on 2 September for Unakoti District Hospital staff. A third, consolidated training was conducted on 18 September for hospital staff from other district hospitals across Tripura, along with representatives from TSDMA. Across these sessions, around 30 participants were oriented on key components of hospital risk assessment, emergency planning, and the development of structured and actionable HDMPs aligned with national guidelines.

In addition to the training sessions, GHS extended dedicated handholding support to the participating hospitals, to facilitate the preparation and refinement of their disaster management plans. This included technical guidance, iterative reviews, and contextual inputs to ensure that the plans were practical, locally relevant, and implementable. The initiative significantly strengthened the capacity of district hospitals in Tripura to develop robust preparedness systems and ensure continuity of essential health services during emergencies.



UNDP Project - Strengthening Structural Safety and Urban Resilience of Engineers of Nagpur, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, and Nashik Municipal Corporations in Maharashtra (Sep-Oct 2025)

GeoHazards Society (GHS), in partnership with UNDP, implemented a capacity-building initiative to strengthen structural safety and disaster resilience across three rapidly urbanising cities in Maharashtra—Nashik, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, and Nagpur. The project focused on enhancing the technical capacity of municipal engineers, architects, and planners through city-specific training modules and hands-on workshops tailored to local hazard profiles, including floods, earthquakes, heatwaves, and fire risks. Participants engaged in two-day workshops combining technical sessions with field-based assessments of critical infrastructure, particularly hospitals, to identify safety gaps



and recommend practical improvements. The initiative also resulted in the development of a bilingual Structural Safety Manual to support continued learning and institutionalisation of safe construction practices. Overall, the project contributed to building a cadre of trained professionals and strengthening urban systems to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate resilience into planning and development processes.



Inclusive Disaster Preparedness – Safety for All (2025–26)

Building on its partnership with the Mariwala Health Initiative (MHI), GeoHazards Society (GHS) continued its work on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) in eight special schools across Kerala, Mizoram, and New Delhi during 2025–26. The initiative addressed preparedness gaps in institutions serving children with visual, hearing, and intellectual impairments, where inaccessible evacuation systems, limited awareness, and inadequate safety measures increase disaster risks. Key interventions included sensitisation programmes, first aid and fire safety training, formation of School Safety Committees, development of accessible evacuation plans, and conduct of mock drills involving students, staff, caregivers, and parents. Safety assessments were also undertaken to identify risks and strengthen fire safety and emergency response systems. Through capacity building, preparedness planning, and targeted safety improvements, the project contributed to creating safer and more inclusive learning environments for children with special needs.

DIDRR Activities in Kerala

In Kerala, the project was implemented at Jeevodaya Centre School for Mentally Challenged, Kottayam, and Rotary School for Children in Need of Special Care, Thiruvananthapuram. The interventions focused on strengthening preparedness among teachers, caregivers, and parents through sensitisation sessions, first aid and fire safety training, and practical evacuation planning exercises. Campus risk assessments and school walkthroughs helped identify hazards related to fire,



flooding, lightning, and accessibility challenges within the institutions. School Safety Committees were guided in preparing Institution Disaster Management Plans and conducting preparedness drills, while parents and caregivers were encouraged to integrate family preparedness practices to support children during emergencies.



DIDRR Activities in Mizoram

In Mizoram, activities were undertaken at Ephatha Special School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Redeem Garden, Shining Star Special School, and Special Blind School in Aizawl. The programme focused on disability-inclusive preparedness for children with hearing, visual, and intellectual disabilities through orientation and sensitisation sessions on disaster preparedness, mental health during disasters, communication challenges, and accessible evacuation planning. Campus walkthroughs and preliminary risk assessments were conducted to identify structural and non-structural vulnerabilities, while school authorities and staff were supported in initiating School Disaster Management Plans, committee formation, and preparedness mechanisms. The initiative also strengthened engagement with departments working on disability welfare and disaster management in the state.





DIDRR Activities in Delhi

In New Delhi, the initiative was implemented at Janta Adarsh Andh Vidyalaya, Sadiq Nagar, and the Institution for the Blind, Amar Colony. Both institutions cater to children with visual impairments and face challenges related to safe evacuation, fire risks, and emergency communication in dense urban environments. Multi-day training programmes were conducted for teachers, caregivers, and support staff on disaster preparedness, psychosocial care, buddy systems, tactile evacuation mapping, and non-structural safety measures. Detailed campus walkthroughs and evacuation planning exercises were also carried out to identify vulnerabilities and improve preparedness within school and hostel facilities. The activities strengthened institutional understanding of inclusive school safety and reinforced the importance of regular drills and coordinated emergency response systems.



Commemorating the IDDRR day (Oct 2025)

Every year on 13th October (International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction), the GHS team voluntarily undertakes school safety and sensitization programs to remind the importance of disaster awareness and mitigation and to increase the capacities of the school authorities to respond better during any disaster. A mock evacuation exercise was conducted in Sredha School's new premises involving all students and staff. A sensitization program for teachers was organized for the teachers of Rotary School for Children in Need of Special Care. Basis Disaster Awareness lessons were imparted to the students of Harbour Area UP School ion Thiruvananthapuram Kerala.





Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) Training Programme, Arunachal Pradesh (February 2026)

GeoHazards Society (GHS), in collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, conducted a four-day Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DiDRR) training programme in Itanagar during February 2026. The programme focused on strengthening disaster preparedness and school safety for institutions serving children with special needs, with major activities centred at the Donyi-Polo Mission School for the Hearing and Visually Impaired. Bringing together school staff, caregivers, parents, and representatives from institutions supporting children with disabilities, the training addressed the heightened vulnerabilities faced by children with visual and hearing impairments during disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, floods, and fires. Participants were sensitised on inclusive evacuation planning, psychosocial support, family preparedness, and non-structural risk reduction measures tailored to the needs of children with disabilities.

The programme combined technical sessions with practical exercises, including hazard hunts, fire safety demonstrations, preparation of a customised Institution Disaster Management Plan, and earthquake preparedness drills for both school and hostel facilities. Inclusive safety measures such as buddy systems, tactile and accessible evacuation strategies, and role-based response mechanisms were incorporated into planning and drills. The initiative marked one of the first focused DiDRR capacity-building efforts in Arunachal Pradesh and contributed to strengthening institutional preparedness, coordination, and inclusive safety practices for children with special needs.



Hospital Safety Programme in Himachal Pradesh (March 2026 - Ongoing)

GeoHazards Society (GHS), in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA), initiated the Hospital Safety Programme in Himachal Pradesh during 2026 to strengthen the disaster resilience of district-level



healthcare facilities across the state. Recognising the increasing risks posed by earthquakes, landslides, floods, cloudbursts, and other climate-induced hazards in the Himalayan region, the programme focuses on enhancing the structural, non-structural, and functional safety of hospitals to ensure continuity of critical health services during emergencies. The initiative covers 12 major district hospitals across Himachal Pradesh and is being implemented in a phased manner, taking into account the state's challenging terrain, remote locations, seasonal accessibility, and weather-related constraints. Key project components include Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) and safety audits of critical hospital buildings, preparation of Hospital Disaster Management Plans (HDMPs), training of government engineers and hospital officials, tabletop exercises, evacuation drills, and psychosocial care training for emergency situations.

As part of the initial activities undertaken in March 2026, GHS conducted workshops on Hospital Disaster Preparedness and Rapid Visual Screening of Healthcare Facilities at Regional Hospital Una, Regional Hospital Bilaspur, and Dr. Radhakrishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur, in collaboration with HPSDMA, respective District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), NIT Hamirpur, and UNDP India. These workshops helped orient hospital staff on disaster risks, non-structural vulnerabilities, and preparedness planning for healthcare facilities in hazard-prone regions. GHS is collaborating with NIT Hamirpur for the Rapid Visual Screening Exercise and Assessment of Non-Structural risks. A specialised session on non-structural risks in healthcare facilities and their mitigation was conducted for Civil Engineering students at NIT Hamirpur, promoting awareness and technical understanding of hospital safety among future professionals and rendering hands-on experience of NSM through the assessment of the district hospitals.



This project on holistic hospital safety is ongoing and marks an important step towards building a culture of safety, preparedness, and resilient healthcare systems in Himachal Pradesh.