



## **Annual Report 2023-24**

In 2023-24, GeoHazards Society is in the 16<sup>th</sup> financial year since its inception in 2008. The organisation continues to strive towards disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The projects implemented this year gives thrust on inclusiveness and commits to support institutions catering to children with special needs and cognitive disabilities. The wide range of projects implemented include school safety training in various states across the country, scientific projections to study climate variations, building the resilience of healthcare facilities, and policy support for **designing state-wide strategies to build resilient and equitable schools**. Partnering with international agencies like the World Bank, Woodwell Climate Research Center, national agencies like NIDM, NDMA, SDMA, and private institutions like Takshila and MHI has helped GHS to serve a wide range of stakeholders to understand the disaster and climate risks and to formulate suitable interventions for mitigation and risk reduction.

### **2-Day training on Building Resilience of Health Facilities (April 2023)**

During April 2023, GHS organized a two-day training for hospital administrators and senior doctors from 20 district hospitals and private hospitals in Aizawl, partnering with the Health Department, Govt. of Mizoram.

### **Training on Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Development, Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh (Aug 2023)**

GHS team invited by the District Disaster Management Authority, Sirmaur, imparted a three-day training program for the Councilors, representatives from the health department, Ayush, Nehru Yuva Volunteers, HP Home Guard, and representatives from different hospitals at Sirmaur HP. The trainees were taken through the Disaster Risk Reduction strategies and planning process through interactive lectures and group exercises.



### **Refresher Programme and Audit of School Safety in Delhi Public Schools under Takshila Educational Society in Pune, Patna, Ludhiana and Coimbatore (June- Oct 2023)**

In continuation with the earlier disaster management training program conducted by GHS for the Delhi Public Schools under the Takshila Education Society, this year a series of refresher training was conducted in the DPS schools in Pune, Ludhiana, Patna, and Coimbatore. Training was imparted to the School Administration, teachers, non-teaching staff, and also the transport staff who manage the fleet of school buses in these institutions. Basic Disaster Awareness was imparted to the staff and

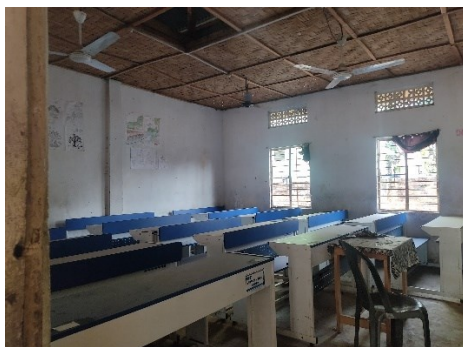


the school safety teams were reminded of their roles. Group exercises were organized to perform hazard hunting on the premises and for evacuation planning. On the final day, a preparedness drill was conducted to evaluate the efficiency of the prepared plan and the response capacities of the school team to handle unforeseen disasters. The GHS team did a safety audit inspecting the facility thoroughly and gave recommendations to enhance the safety measures. All the above activities were performed in the DPS schools in Pune, Patna, Ludhiana, and Coimbatore during June-November 2023.



### **World Bank, ARUP, Informing the design of a state-wide strategy to build resilient and equitable schools in Nagaland, June 2023**

GHS partnered with GHI in this project awarded by The World Bank to conduct a School Survey on 70 Schools in Nagaland and extend policy support for designing a state-wide strategy to build resilient and equitable schools in Nagaland. The field visits were carried out to understand school building types and the local context of construction in 70 government schools across several districts. State consultations were held in 7 districts, to understand the cultural aspects affecting schools in Nagaland, and training for the safety of schools was imparted.

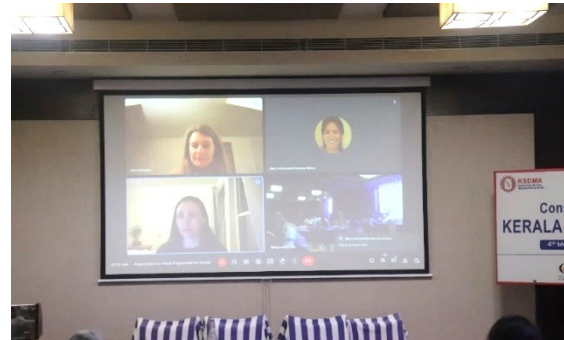






### **GHS-KSDMA- Woodwell Project - Study on Projecting Heat Trends in Kerala and Consultation Workshop (Sep 2023-Mar 2024)**

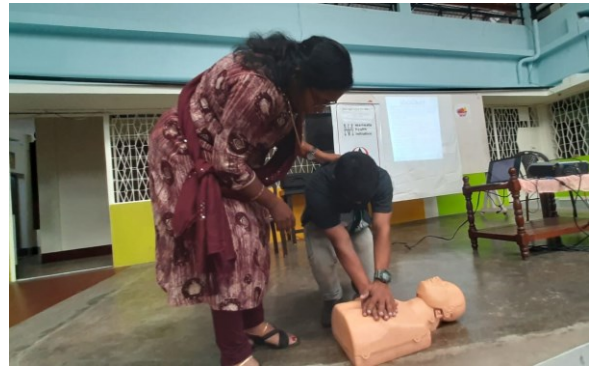
The GHS-GHI team partnered with Woodwell Climate Research Center to conduct a study on “Projecting Heat Trends in Kerala” with the support of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. KSDMA shared the temperature data from all the Governmental recording stations, and the shape files of district boundaries to enable Woodwell to work on the projections. Woodwell produced heat projections for different warming levels to inform policymaking and revision of the State Heat Action Plan. A one-day workshop for disseminating the findings of this study heat projections was organised along with KSDMA in Thiruvananthapuram on the 4th of March 2024. The workshop was attended by key stakeholders who would be users of the data including climate scientists, technical experts from government agencies, and academic institutions.



### **Inclusive Disaster Preparedness- Safety for All in Assam, Nagaland, New Delhi and Kerala (Sep 2023 - Sep 2024)**

GHS partnered with Mariwala Health Initiative and worked towards making safer schools for children with special needs in Assam, Nagaland, New Delhi, and Kerala. The Angel Home, Prodigal Home, Deaf Biblical Ministry in Nagaland, Shishu Sarothi in Guwahati, Assam, Action for Autism and Blind Relief Association School in New Delhi, and Assisi School for Mentally Challenged and Sredha School in Kerala were selected for the various interventions under this project. The School Authorities were sensitized to the increased need for disaster safety for their students and the structural and non-structural measures that may be adopted in each school to make their premises safer. Various activities include training the caregivers and parents on basic disaster awareness, formation of the School Safety Committee and response teams within the school, and training on First aid and firefighting. GHS extended support to the schools to prepare the floor plans of the schools and to earmark safe evacuation routes in case of an emergency. The teachers and parents were involved throughout the process and family preparedness was also emphasized.





### **Hospital Disaster Preparedness Workshop in Shimla**

A three-day workshop was organized by GHS in partnership with the District Disaster Management Authority in Shimla for the administrators and other staff of the hospitals in Shimla district. The informative sessions helped the participants to understand that hospitals need to be safe and functional at all times, especially in the event of any disaster. Group exercise and hazard hunt were performed in the host hospital which capacitated the trainees to undertake similar activities in their facility.







### **Commemorating the IDDRR day (Oct 2023)**

The GHS team voluntarily undertook 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. Activities were conducted by the team members in Nagaland, Assam, Mizoram, New Delhi, and Kerala on the day.



### **Building Resilience of Health Facilities Sensitization Sessions and assistance in developing HDMP (Dec 2023)**

GeoHazards Society and GeoHazards International associated with the Health Department, Govt. of Mizoram to organize training for the hospital administrators in six hospitals in Thenzawl, Serchhip, Kolasib, Mamit, Aizawl and extended support to prepare the Hospital Disaster Management Plans. The learning experience helped the trainees to assess the hazards in their health facilities and also to mitigate the risks. The need for recurring training and to make all staff aware of their role in hospital preparedness was highlighted and staff prepared their hospital's disaster management plans in the next few months.

### **Panel discussion on “Disability, gender and climate change” at Purple Fest, Goa (Jan 2024)**

The International Purple Festival kicked off on 08 January 2024, heralding six days of celebration and empowerment for Persons with Disabilities. The festival was a collaborative effort between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Directorate of Social Welfare under the Government of Goa, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Festivals of this nature catalyze a profound shift in societal perspectives, fostering a positive impact on mindset and attitudes.

GHS team member was invited to take part in the Inclusivity Panel Discussion at Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The panel discussed 'Championing Inclusivity,' focusing on experiences in employing persons with disabilities and fostering inclusivity in the workforce.





### **Workshop on Hospital Disaster Preparedness for Thiruvananthapuram Corporation (Jan 2024)**

A three-day workshop was organized by GHS in partnership with the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation on 23-25 Jan 2024, attended by administrators, doctors, and safety engineers from 25 hospitals in the city. The training benefitted the hospital personnel to identify potential hazards in their premises and through peer learning and group exercises conducted at KIMS Hospital where the event was hosted. Fire safety, the need to maintain a hospital DM plan, documentation of maintenance activities, and SOPs for various situations were discussed in detail. The officials of TMC encouraged all hospitals to prepare their DM plans in the coming financial year and GHS assured technical assistance as and when required.

### **School Disaster Management Programme in 25 schools under Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation (Sep 2023- March 2024)**

GHS was engaged by the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation (TMC) for building the resilience of 25 selected schools within the municipal jurisdiction. Key project components include Basic Disaster awareness training in schools, the formation of School Disaster Management Committees and Emergency Response Teams (ERT) within schools, domain-specific training for the ERTs, hazard hunt exercises on the school premises, and the implementation of mock drills to evaluate and refine emergency response protocols and the School Disaster Management Plan

The dedicated team of GHS consisted of community facilitators, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) trainers, resource persons for Emergency Response Team (ERT) training, and a Project Coordinator, and documentation experts who worked in tandem to meticulously plan and execute all project activities across the selected schools. The beneficiaries of this initiative are the students and staff of these 25 schools, with the SDMP designed to enhance their resilience, disaster awareness, and preparedness.





The GHS team guided by the Project Monitoring Committee at TMC provided invaluable assistance to the schools in formulating their School Disaster Management Plans (SDMPs) and conducting preparedness drills to ensure effective implementation and testing of the plan. The mock drills conducted on 13-15 February 2024, across 25 schools showcased a concerted effort towards enhancing disaster management preparedness in educational institutions. With a total participation of 5420 students, 418 teachers, and 86 non-teaching staff, the drills meticulously executed comprehensive hazard hunts, evacuation planning, and disaster management protocols. GHS also delivered a handbook on Basic Life Support in the local language which was printed and distributed to the schools.

### **Workshop on Hospital Disaster Preparedness for Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (March 2024)**

GHS in association with Nagaland SDMA and Department of Health, organized a three-day workshop on Disaster Preparedness in Hospitals. 60 participants including key decision makers of all district hospitals across Nagaland benefitted from the learnings during the event. The trainees were sensitized to spot the hazards within their facility and from outside, and the preparedness measures were discussed in detail. Planning and preparation of the hospital DM plans were initiated through group activities. A session on family preparedness guided the trainees to make safety plans in their homes.

### **Voluntary Work – Sensitisation of students (March 2024)**

GHS in association with GHI organized student sensitization programs in March 2024 for the staff and students of the Global Institute for Public Health, Thiruvananthapuram, and for the Department of Geology at the University of Kerala. The training illustrated best practices on how disaster preparedness and climate adaptation can be mainstreamed in their field of study and research.