

Examples of how local churches have been involved in disaster management

No	Role of the Local Church	Primary Focus of the Case Study	Secondary Focus of the Case Study
1	<p>Facilitator of community action</p> <p>'The local church is a group that is able to organise itself and has the potential to organise the wider community....'</p>	<p>The Baptist Churches in Assam</p> <p>The scattered churches that faced the annual flooding of the Brahmaputra river were used as the platform from which to organise the community into thinking 'Disaster Risk Reduction' in contrast to 'Relief'</p>	<p>The Catholic church in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>The parish was the focal point around which relief was organised for the whole community.</p> <p>The Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Manipur</p> <p>Pastors were eventually able to mobilise the wider community for peace.</p>
2	<p>Connector with the wider world</p> <p>'The local church is one of the few structures in the community that has natural links with the wider world...roles as a Gate keeper and as a communicator of information...'</p>	<p>No case study majored on this niche activity.</p>	<p>The Catholic Church in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>The church had the authority to call meetings of the NGO community, an interfaith gathering of religious leaders and also to summon the senior most civil servant in the district in wake of the tsunami. It also accessed resources through the world wide network of catholic agencies.</p> <p>The Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Manipur</p> <p>Because the churches had important connections outside the District, it could call upon negotiators to help address the conflict situation they faced.</p> <p>DMT in Marsabit</p> <p>The local churches were able to spread information relating to the drought situation to and from the local authorities as well as among themselves.</p>
3	<p>Advocate on behalf of the poor and marginalised</p> <p>'...because of values of care and compassion, fairness and justice it can call others to accountdistribution of food; access to treatment etc...'</p>	<p>No case study majored on this niche activity.</p>	<p>The Catholic Church in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>It brought out thousands of protestors on to the streets, precipitating the resignation of the Collector of the district, because the government's response to the tsunami was so poor.</p>

Roles of the local church in disaster management

4	<p>Community peace builder and force for cohesion \...a role of preventing future outbreaks of violence...'</p>	<p>DMT in Marsabit The local churches entered peace building forums to prevent future outbreaks of violence.</p> <p>The Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Manipur It was only the churches that commanded sufficient respect to overcome the deep seated anger that had gripped the hearts of people from both sides of the conflict and was able to challenge them with Christian values (and common sense) to stop fighting.</p>	None
5	<p>Provider of relational care and support \...prayer, pastoral care, hospitality, cares for people's inner hurt, grief...'</p>	<p>No case study majored on this niche activity.</p>	<p>The Catholic Church in Tamil Nadu The priests buried the dead, continued to conduct Mass and prayed for those who mourned. The members of The Pentecostal Mission in Port Blair listened, cared and prayed for those in the camp they was serving.</p>
6	<p>Influence and shaper of values \...wrestling with values, behaviour and world view perspectives...'</p>	<p>No case study majored on this niche activity.</p>	<p>The Baptist and Presbyterian churches in Manipur The peace initiative of the churches challenged both communities to forgive the wrongs committed against each other. The Baptist Churches in Assam NEICORD was challenging the fatalistic mindset of the communities whose land was flooded every year by the river as well as a dependency syndrome coming from repetitive relief handouts.</p>
7	<p>Provider of resources \...of buildings, people and communication structures...'</p>	<p>The Bombay Group of Churches, Gujarat They offered 70 volunteers to work with EFICOR distributing relief over a three month period in the aftermath of the earthquake The Pentecostal Mission Church in Port Blair It provided volunteers to feed up to 500 displaced people daily in a relief camp for one month, following the tsunami.</p>	none
8	<p>Immediate responder of sudden onset disasters \...where the immediate response is done by the church and community itself...'</p>	<p>The Catholic Churches in Tamil Nadu The parish responded immediately to the devastation that hit its people in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami.</p>	none

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