

## All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), India

### Mr. Mihir Bhatt

#### *Organisation Profile*

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) is an active member of ICVA for decades.

The AIDMI is one of the first local non-governmental organisation based in Gujarat, India. It is a community-based action planning, research and advocacy organisation, working towards bridging the gap between policy, practice, research, and learning related to humanitarian crisis, disaster mitigation and resilience to climate change adaptation as laid out in National Disaster Management Plan of Government of India of 2019; Sendai Framework; and Paris Agreement.

AIDMI is committed to reducing the development, humanitarian, and climate forces that lead humanitarian crises.

AIDMI's local action is always strategic. In 2023 it utilised its unique Livelihood Relief Fund for flood affected female farmers of Punjab (500) and casual labour of Gujarat (1000). The fund so far has reached out to over 30000 families.

Similarly, AIDMI has made over 5000 schools safe with UNICEF, UNDP, Save the Children, and various state authorities.

AIDMI has built hundreds of water harvesting structures, piloted micro insurance programme, offer innovative trainings of local leadership, and supported upscaling innovative learning and evaluations of hundreds of organisations in India and beyond.

Established after the 1987-89 national humanitarian droughts crisis, AIDMI has worked over the decades to cover over 18 types of humanitarian crises in nineteen states of India and beyond to nine countries in Asia. AIDMI links local communities to national and international levels of risk reduction, relief and long-term recovery and climate resilience programmes and policies. As an action-learning organization, AIDMI promotes disaster risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change by supporting, capturing, processing and disseminating disaster related information, lessons and innovative ideas.

AIDMI routinely carries out stakeholder and affected people's round tables for national policy shaping; trainings of trainers for capacity building of local leaders; reviews, evaluations, and research studies for local learning; and pilot projects where the affected citizens are in the centre.

Interconnected networking with local to global diverse organisations is AIDMI's constant goal. Examples follow.

AIDMI has worked with ICVA as its member for now over decades, including being part of its consultation on loss and damage finance at Asia and global level; representing ICVA in several UN and RC initiatives; joining and promoting climate training by ICVA; zero carbon tool review and utilisation; and other issues at the regional and global level.

AIDMI represented ICVA to COP28 UAE in over 9 panels and has developed a three year follow up programme on loss and damage funding for affected population where AIDMI will work with ICVA members, if given a chance.

AIDMI is developing its plans for COP29 with focus on finance for resilience including insurance and credit and will work with ICVA members in the coming years.

AIDMI co-lead Disaster Emergency Committee's (DEC) two landmark evaluations of (1) the Gujarat earthquake of 2001 and (2) Tsunami Evaluation Coalition of six UN, eleven INGOs, and five countries in Asia.

AIDMI has co-chaired the revision of standards process with CHS Alliance management with success and will now devote time to work out the roll-out and utilisation of the revised standards in key regions and organisations.

For the last two years AIDMI has been working with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on finding opportunities for mainstreaming centrality of affected population, making environment part of recovery process, and promoting localisation in all humanitarian programmes.

AIDMI has worked with ALNAP over the years to advise several State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS) reports, including the latest of 2022; taken the findings to local organisation in India, Bangladesh, and South Asia for utilisation. AIDMI also, as a follow up, designed and developed the first-ever Strengthening the Humanitarian System in India report with World Food Programme (WFP) and Sphere India and is taking the findings for accelerated utilisation by local authorities and civil society.

AIDMI has shaped research and innovative needs in the humanitarian sector for over two decades and now it is doing so in Central and South Asia with Deakin University and ELHRA. Findings of this will be of use to ICVA members in coming years for programming in the areas of dynamic coordination, leverage finance, distressed migration, and transformative networking. Similarly, AIDMI is a founding member of International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) where it has contributed to informing humanitarian studies with demands from the communities in the global south.

Currently AIDMI is busy with working on Asia (India and Bangladesh) and Central Africa global project, a unique lateral learning programme on and around heatwaves with universities, authorities, and donors. AIDMI focused on data and heatwave affected population in its learning.

AIDMI runs Southasiadisasters.net publication that is locally led bottom up publication of diverse stakeholders of humanitarian sector with over 200 published issues of global regional and mostly local humanitarian, disaster risk reduction, and resilience concerns.

AIDMI links affected people with policy and aims at making policies bear fruits for affected population in all its work.

### *Nominee Information*

## **Mr. Mihir Bhatt**



**Gender: Male**

**Job title: Director**

## **Video presentation**



Mihir is the Director of the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), one of the first local organisations active at local, national, and global levels.

He has been evaluating the humanitarian work of UN, international nongovernmental agencies, authorities, and local organisations on beneficiary feedback, rehabilitation activities, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation projects in Asia and the Pacific which he will bring to ICVA members for use.

Currently, he is involved in underlying accountability in core humanitarian standards, Environment Charter, and UN task forces on accountability to affected populations as well as follow up to loss and damage funding to local civil society. All of which is of use to ICVA members.

As an ICVA member he has already contributed to ICVA Strategy 2030, regional consultations, global events and made representation at UN events such as COP28 UAE in nine panels. Thus Mihir has now decades of working relations with ICVA at global, regional, and local level.

Mihir supports Humanitarian Finance related various initiatives: climate financing and linkages to humanitarian action; local loss and damage funding; health and well-being impact of heat on Forced Migration; impacts of climate change extreme events and vulnerable communities such as women, casual labour, and tribals. Mihir will bring this policy and research experience to ICVA policy and research work.

On Humanitarian Coordination, Mihir works on Accountability to Affected People (AAP), revised CHS and SPHERE standards at IASC and other key alliances and has spent findings ways to successfully being engaged with national and sub-national authorities in South and for Asia.

On Transformations, Mihir works with IASC Sub-group on Climate, COP28 UAE participation, planning for COP29, promoting Climate Charter, and a campaign on heatwave for urban small businesses and family-owned farms including L&D and CF and this work is expanding.

On Localisation, Mihir works with local communities on resilient food and nutrition production; mitigating and adapting to heatwaves in low income urban areas; and local NGOs and local authorities in Asia region.

Most recently Mihir has done work on resilience, humanitarian, climate inter-connections in terms: its concept, connections, contexts, and contributing to the Global Charter utilisation that he plans to take ahead in coming years.

Mihir aims to jointly transform ICVA into even more effective humanitarian action where the number and impact of humanitarian crises decrease and so do conditions that lead to such crises.

Mihir supports locally led transformation of humanitarian action that changes the fundamental condition of the crisis and power to response in favour of the affected and at risk populations, more directly, women, refugees, displaced communities, minorities, and tribals. Mihir aims to work with ICVA members to make humanitarian action an opportunity to build resilience worldwide.

Mihir aims to prominently engage local and global actions by ICVA members with each other towards synergy for effective humanitarian action.

Mihir is familiar with and has skills for ICVA's all six ways of working including research and data analysis, convene diverse group of stakeholders, connect excluded and marginal groups to mainstream, advocate for the missing and missed voices of the poor women, minorities, migrant labour, and tribals, support organisations of affected population, and collaborate with all stakeholders at local, national, and global levels.

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- ***Chair –No***