

AMPHAN Humanitarian Relief with Assistance from EDF Energy

Background : Losses due to Amphan cyclone in North 24 Pargana, Sundarban areas:



India experienced the devastating Amphan cyclone in West Bengal on 20th May from 01.30pm to 11.00pm. The speed of the cyclone was 180 km/hour and it was the highest in the history of last 150 years. Most affected area by Amphan cyclone are North 24 Pargana, South 24 Pargana, especially Sundarban area in these two districts. The most affected blocks in North 24 paragana were Basirhat 1, Hasnabad, Hingalganj, Sandeshkhali 1, Sandeshkhali 2. There was no

such house within these blocks which had not lost anything in this cyclone. All the electricity posts had fallen down or damaged. More than 1,50,000 trees also fell down on the roads. The area lost electricity connection from 19th May due to heavy rainfall and the power cut continued till 20th June in many areas.

Hasnabad, Hingalganj, Sandeshkhali 1, Sandeshkhali 2 blocks of Sundarban were waterlogged after the cyclone and people there were totally helpless to feed their family. Many of the villagers had lost their houses and took shelter over the new soil barrages and were staying under tarpaulin. The villagers of Sundarban were not even getting drinking water as all the area was waterlogged with salty river water due to breakage of many barrages in different areas. The agriculture fields were soaked in salt which rendered the soil unfertile for the next five years. The only help from government to the villagers were 200 gm chura, 250 gm muri per family one time and 250ml of water per head per day. Maximum houses were flooded under water and there was no possibility to cook food. All the crops in the fields were under water. Proper cultivation may not be possible for next 3 years because of flooding with salty river water. This takes away means of survival for those who were any way hard hit with loss of livelihood due to Carona Pandemic.

After receiving the initial reports of damage from local volunteers, the organisation committed to help the people of Sundarban. An initial meeting of the organisation's senior team was held on 13th June with local volunteers and it was decided that the organisation will try to support about 1000 affected and needy families. Subsequently, were held on the whole process of needs of assessment, selecting beneficiaries, making different committees and distribution process.

Needs assessment:

A detailed needs assessment was conducted as a first stage of work. The assessment was carried out by a committed team of local entrepreneurs trained by a partner NGO called NACDOR for TCS

Assessment of entrepreneurs: The affected area has a number of youth entrepreneurs being mentored by NACDAOR and TCS. Most of them had suffered losses and their houses were damaged. Especially, 8 out of the 25 youth entrepreneurs were found to be in great need of support. Photographs of their damaged houses were collected. Volunteers' coordinator also visited them for damage assessment.

Houses of Safia, Asharani Mondal, Nazmul, Shyama, Priyanka, Ujjwal, Mitu Ghosh, Lipika Mondal, Debesh Saha, Tanmoy Mondal, Dipak Mondal, Souradeep Gayen had suffered badly.

Documents and applications were collected from the most affected youth entrepreneurs.

Assessment of 1000 mostly affected families was conducted From the last week of June,

Efforts were made to select such areas or villages who are not getting relief despite huge loss or damages. At first, the team met with the government relief officer of Hasnabad and Hingalganj block, Mr. Deep Das and got information about the areas which have not got any relief as there are many difficulties due to transportation and geographical challenges. The team noted down the names of the villages, the number of families of the villages, necessity of the villagers. The team also talked to many government officers to get proper information about the villages. After analysing all the information, the team made a list of the villages with village name, block name police station name, number of families, needs of the families. The first round of assessment was done by 28th June. However, it took more visits by the team to different areas to finalise the target villages and the first plan could be ready by 4th July.

Assessment of beneficiaries of villages: The next step was to assess the losses and present economic conditions of the villagers to select the beneficiaries. The team collected all the necessary contact numbers and talked to the respective persons and took appointment with Panchayat Pradhan, up-pradhan, members of the villages, Panchayat secretary etc. The whole team again went to their allotted villages and met with the relevant persons.

Forming different committees for actual distribution of relief material: The team formed 3 different committees in the target villages along with the youth entrepreneurs and village representatives for easy and peaceful execution of the distribution process. Following committees were formed:

1. Beneficiary selection committee,
 2. Relief distribution and monitoring committee,
 3. Post distribution Grievance committee
- The beneficiary selection committee helped the team in surveying all the village houses after which, our volunteers selected the beneficiaries under discussion with this committee.

- The relief distribution committee helped and on the day of coupon and relief distribution.
- The 3rd committee was formed to deal with the complaints and suggestions by any beneficiary after the relief distribution.

All the Process of beneficiary selection and making the lists of selected beneficiaries was completed by 10th of July.

Relief amount distribution process among entrepreneurs:

The local team selected 8 youth entrepreneurs for providing cash support to help their house repair. The team collected the bank details from them and made a sheet of bank details with bank name, branch name, branch code, IFSC code, account holders name, account number, address of the entrepreneurs.

After receiving the required information, the office processed it and transferred the required relief amount of Rs. 4000/- to each of the entrepreneurs account directly on 6th July. All the entrepreneurs were very happy and thankful to the organisation and Donors.

Listing up total beneficiaries in the villages: After a time consuming survey with village representatives and entrepreneurs, the team completed the final selection of families in different villages and made a list of total 1008 families in different villages with guardian's name, ADHAAR I'd no by 10th July.

Purchasing and Packing of relief items: Following relief items were purchased and packaged for distribution:

S.No	Items	Quantity
A	Food Items	
1	Rice	5 kg
2	Dal	0.5 kg
3	Muri	1 kg
4	Puffed Rice	1 kg
5	Mustered Oil	0.2 litre
6	Salt	0.5 kg
7	Potato	2 kg
8	ORS	1 packet
9	Red Chilli	0.1 kg
10	Turmic	0.1 kg
11	Sugar	0.5 kg
12	Match Box	1
B	Health and Hygiene	
1	Sanitry Napkin	1 packet
2	Mask	4
3	Medicine	1 packet Zeolin tablets

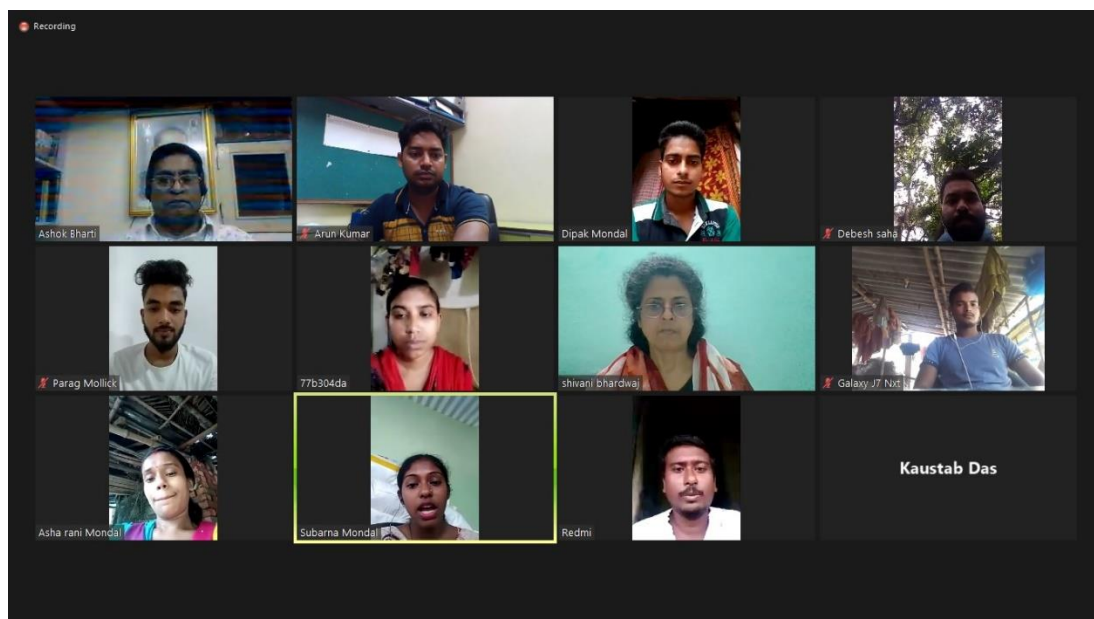
4	Biscuit/Horlicks	5 packets
5	Bucket	1

The above formed one unit of package. 100 such packages were prepared for distribution.

Quotations were invited from three vendors. The cost effective one was selected. The procurement committee of the organisation discussed all the quotations and approved the best suited one. The selected vendor was then given the purchase order and it supplied the material.

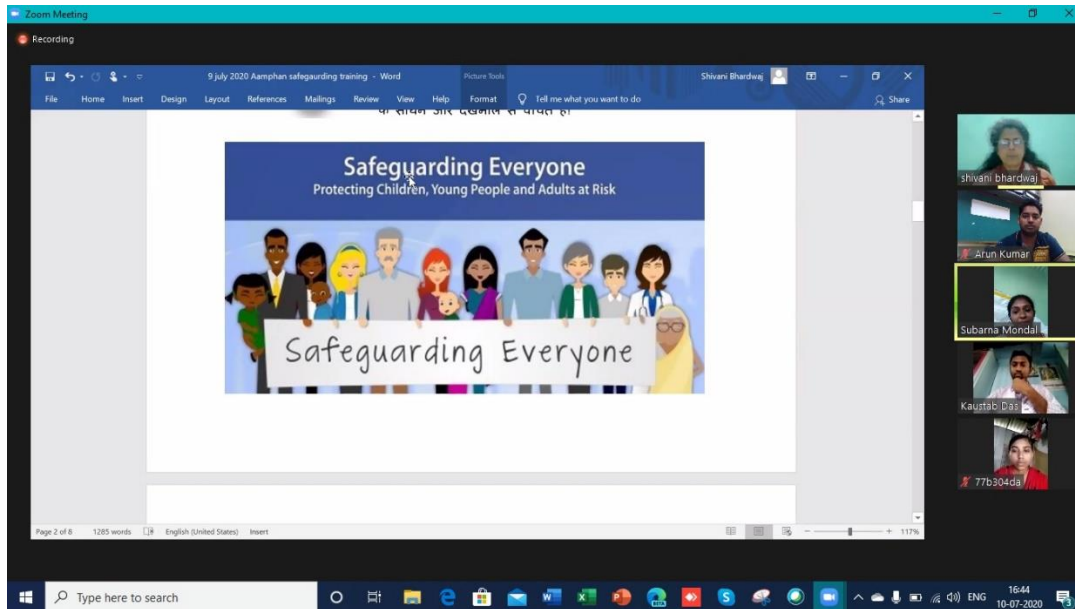
Training of Volunteers :

An on-line training of volunteers was organised on 10th July before the start of the actual relief distribution work. Most volunteers participated in the training. The training was provided by Dr Shivani Bhardwaj, Director of SAFF, and Mr Rajesh Upadhyay.



The training educated the volunteers on the following aspects :

- A. **Precautions during COVID times** : The participants were oriented on the important precautionary measures while working during the COVID 19 crisis times such as using masks



and covering faces, maintaining physical distances, washing hands regularly etc.

- B. **Physical safeguarding** : Such as careful leading and unloading of relief materials, especially when crossing rivers and using boats.
- C. **Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults** : As per safeguarding policy of SAFF, the volunteers were oriented on the need to be careful while interacting with vulnerable adults (women, disabled, aged) that they are not harmed in any way during our operations. No volunteer should misuse the power position which they acquire due to relief material in their hands. They should be careful about the image of the support organisation. If any one comes across any malpractice, they should inform the seniors in the organisation.

Distribution of coupon in the villages: It was decided to print Distribution card for easy and fair distribution of relief among the villagers. The team printed 1000 cards with coupon number, name of beneficiary, guardian's name of the beneficiary, Adhaar No. and the EDF Energy organisation's logo was printed on it as they were the donors.

The teams again visited the beneficiary families, distributed the coupons and asked them to come with the coupons on the distribution day.



Relief Distribution: After completing the packing of relief items and coupon distribution, it was the time for actual action of relief Distribution in the villages. The team informed the village Distribution and monitoring committee and finalized the dates, time and places of distribution in the selected villages. The village committee had done all arrangements at the distribution place, some tables, chairs, some extra volunteers for managing the whole process and the line management of the beneficiaries and all other necessary arrangements. In August a post distribution monitoring visit was made by SAFP consultant to verify the distribution list pasted below and to assess the situation at the closure of the project.

Sl. No.	Name of Village	No. of families covered
1	Itinda Panitar Viillages	350
2	Merudandi	78
3	Kachharipara	110
4	Nazat - 4	130
5	Baynara	100
6	Goramari-Shitalia	210
7	Madhyampur	30
	Total	1008

Conclusion :

Thus, the humanitarian mission to help 1008 most affected families was completed. SAFP thanks our EDF Energy donors for giving this support to help the helpless.

8 youth entrepreneurs also got supported.

SAFP looks forward to further collaboration and support to help the needy families affected by natural disasters, by COVID 19 and poverty.