

FLOOD RESPONSE PROGRAMME IN KEUTAPATNA U.P. SCHOOL OF BANKI BLOCK IN CUTTACK DISTRICT, ORISSA

Project completion report

Supported by:

***Indo-America Sevaks Foundation(IASF)
U.S.A.***

Implemented by:

***Unnayan
Orissa***

Background: The unprecedented flood in River Mahanadi in the month of September 2008 devastated the life and livelihoods of thousands of families in Orissa. Keutpatna was one of the worst affected villages of Banki-1 Block in Cuttack District. For the people of all the 220 households in this village the flood created havoc most of who belong to marginalized fisherfolk community. All the households in the village were severely affected. Many mud huts as well as few pucca buildings collapsed in the high current of flood water. According to government sources, Banki was the worst affected block in Cuttack district and in Banki block the nature of devastation in Keutpatna village was most awful. Staffs of Unnayan conducted a survey of the situation in the village immediately after the flood and approached different organizations to provide humanitarian support. IASF responded with generous support. Since some other philanthropic and charitable organisations had already provided the victims with food relief, it was therefore decided that the support would be provided to the school going and other children of the village through the only UP school of the village enabling the children to continue the education.

The Support: IASF provided a grant of INR144550/- through which the following supports have been provided to 337 children of the village and materials to the school:

- School bags
- School Dress
- Dress for dropouts and non-going children
- Study materials to the children (Paper, pen, pencil, eraser, pencil cutter, slate, chalk)
- Study materials to the school (books for school library, globe, maps, sports materials)
- Water filter
- Ground mats for the children to sit on the floor
- Dustbin
- Table, table cloth and door screen for school office.
- A corpus fund of INR25000/- for providing scholarship to a few meritorious students every year

(Note: Details of children with the kind of support is attached in a separate excel sheet)

The Process: The support was provided after a thorough survey by Unnayan and beneficiaries were selected by active participation of the school teachers, managing committee members of the school and the parents of the children. A purchase committee was formed represented by one school teacher, one member of school managing committee, three members from village community and one staff of Unnayan. All the purchases were done by this committee. Distribution of materials was done in an open meeting of parents, teachers, students and managing committee members. Thus the operation has been done through active participation of the community in the whole process.

The impact: The support was timely and addressed to an important need in the post flood scenario. The dress supplied to the children also helped them in the winter as most of the children were left with no dress to wear as the flood washed them away along with other household materials. Babies were provided with woollen clothes. The parents, teachers and the committee members are happy as it helped a lot in bringing back normalcy in the running of the school. The provision for scholarship (though small in amount) in future has motivated the teachers and parents that would help in developing academic spirit among the school children.

Follow-up: Unnayan is in regular touch with the teachers, children and parents. It has also been planned to keep on visiting the school on a regular interval for next two years.

Finances: The financial utilization certificate is attached herewith separately.

