

PROJECT REPORT
CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF WORK
ORGANISED AND CONDUCTED BY :
SAVING TIGER SOCIETY
LOCATION : SUNDARBANS, SOUTH 24
PARGANAS,
WEST BENGAL INDIA

Report by :

INTRODUCTION

The coastal areas and its surrounding areas in West Bengal, India was hit by a massive destructive storm on the 20th of April 2020. It was the worst storm the region has experienced in many decades. People who faced the storm in cities and in the coastal areas will never forget the fury and the sound. Many people needed special attention as it caused anxiety and panic attacks, children were scared, animals were panicking. The storm raged on for more than 5 hours without abating its force. Power was cut everywhere when the storm started.

The night of the storm saw everyone awake just waiting and praying for the storm to end. The morning after the storm was like looking at a world that was completely destroyed. Cities have concrete structures which withstood the cyclone yet cities saw destruction at a never before seen scale.

The coastal areas, mainly the Sundarbans delta, forms a buffer for the mainland. However this storm spared nothing and no one in its path. Due to the warnings beforehand, thousands of people were evacuated by the government to safety in storm shelters and safe areas. Cattle too were shifted to safe places which saved their lives.

The calamity that was caused by Cyclone Amphan in the Sundarbans is unimaginable and heartbreaking.

There are graded dams built in many areas along the rivers as previously another storm had flooded the region. This cyclone swept past these barriers and breached the embankments to again flood entire areas with salt water. This is catastrophic on it's own as all land in Sundarbans is used for agricultural purposes.

Salt water means that the land is rendered useless and nothing can be grown there until the salt leaches out of the soil naturally. A process that takes years.

Where there used to be full villages, the day after saw nothing left. Homes torn out and blown away, walls collapsed and washed away, the ground flooded and household debris floating around. People lost everything they had.

Everyone has ponds with fresh water for their daily needs. These ponds also supply fish for the family. Trees falling into them meant that the fish were all dead and the water contaminated and rotting the vegetation around. This creates a health hazard.

Drinking water in the villages were got from tube wells situated in various locations. These tube wells were unfit to be used as the salt water had seeped onto the ground and mixed with the fresh water for drinking which meant that people were also left with no drinking water or food.

It is to be kept in mind that the country is in the thick of a highly contagious pandemic. There was lockdown and rules to go out and rules to follow to keep ourselves safe. There was no transport as traffic of any kind was restricted.

There was already a need to supply food rations to people who were jobless and without money to sustain their families due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

This cyclone had left an even more challenging situation for all with its presence and the devastation it left behind.

OBJECTIVE AND EXECUTION

Saving Tiger Society has been present and working in Sundarbans situated in West Bengal India for the past 12 years.

Our main focus has been the protection and conservation of our environment and wildlife.

Helping and aiding the community living within the sensitive areas of Sundarbans has also been a part of our work. The NGO from the beginning has been working to develop and improve the environment and quality of life for the people.

The Cyclone Amphan alongside the Covid 19 pandemic created a situation with many obstacles and some very challenging conditions. Food rations had been handed out by Saving Tiger Society during our relief work for the pandemic.

The aftermath of the storm needed emergency response and services. The team had to start supplying relief aid immediately. This time, the requirements were food, provisions for some sort of cover or shelter, sanitation products, hygiene products and potable water to be used for cooking and drinking. Supplies like buckets and containers had to be thought of so that people could store their food and water.

There were also urgent requirement of medicines and medical aid. The objective here for the NGO was to get relief supplies as fast as possible to the worst affected areas and then carry forward to other places. By identifying the places where relief aid and supplies were required immediately, the Saving Tiger team were able to reach out and start distribution without much delay.

The most urgent and important material in demand were large Tarpaulin sheets to create temporary shelter/tents. Food was also a necessity and we were distributing dry food kits, bleach, lime, soap, sanitizing products and buckets according to the needs of each area

that was being covered.

As the days continued, certain villages where most of the homes had been destroyed, people were unable to cook food for themselves.

Support Kitchens were required to feed the people with cooked meals.

Saving Tiger Society started and ran a few of these support Kitchens in a couple of villages where meals were served maintaining the necessary precautions. If there was space, then people were served there to eat.

Places where there was no place to sit and eat, meals were packed and handed out to the people.

Meals served were Khichdi and a vegetable fry. Rice, dal, vegetable curry or egg curry.

Certain areas we were supplying emergency food rations like Puffed rice (muri), sattu, jaggery, biscuits, ORS mix and Beaten rice (chire/poha)

This Cyclone Amphan Relief project stretched out over many weeks. Listing below the various places where we reached out to offer help and support

1 - Master Para, Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S

2 - Tridipnagar, Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S

3 - Gangamela, Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S

4 & 5 - Chunakhali, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S

6 - Dulki Village, Sundarban Tiger Reserve

7 - Sardar Para, Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S

8 - Dayapur, Gosaba G.P, Gosaba Coastal P.S

9 - Morijhapi Village, Choto Mollakhali G.P, Mollakhali P.S

10 - Tejokhali Village, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S

11 - Pancharam Er Ghat, Kalidas Pur G.P, Mollakhali P.S

12 - Kalidaspur Village, Kalidas Pur G.P, Mollakhali P.S

- 13 - Choudhury More (River Side Area), Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S
- 14 - Nafarganj, Nafarganj G.P, Jharkhali P.S
- 15 - Chunakhali Community Kitchen, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S
- 16 - Chunakhali Medical Camp, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S
- 17 - Nafarganj Community Kitchen, Jharkhali G.P, Jharkhali Coastal P.S
- 18 - Chunakhali Medical Camp, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S
- 19 - Chunakhali Community kitchen, Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S
- 20 & 21 - Mediacal Camp, Basirhat Range, Kalidaspur G.P, Mollakhali P.S

*G.P - Gram Panchayat

*P.S - Police Station



1st Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Master Para, Jharkhali G.P
under Jharkhali Coastal P.S
Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets and dry food kits to 30 pax



2nd Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Tridipnagar, Jharkhali G.P under Jharkhali Coastal P.S
 Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets to 50 pax



3rd Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Gangamela Village,
 Jharkhali G.P under Jharkhali Coastal P.S
 Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets to 50 pax



4th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Chunakhali G.P under Basanti P.S

Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets to 200 pax



5TH PHASE OF SUPER CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

5th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Jana Para, Chunakhali G.P
under Basanti P.S
Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets to 50 pax



6th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Dhulki Forest Village,
Sundarbans Tiger Reserve
Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets and dry food kits to 200 pax



7th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Sardar Para, Jharkhali G.P
under Jharkhali Coastal P.S

Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets and dry food ration to 100 pax



8th PHASE OF SUPER CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

8th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Dayapur, Gosaba G.P,
 Gosaba P.S
 Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets and dry food rations to 50 pax



9th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Morijhapi Village, Choto Mollakhali G.P, Mollakhali P.S
Distribution : Dry food rations to 200 pax



10th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Tejokhali Village,
Chunakhali G.P, Basanti P.S
Distribution : Dry Food Rations to 60 pax



11th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Pancharam er Ghat,
Kalidaspur G.P, Mollakhali P.S
Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets to 200 pax



12th phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Kalidaspur Village,
Kalidaspur G.P, Mollakhali P.S
Distribution : Bleaching powder 200 kgs and Lime (chuna) 400 kgs for
sanitation purposes



13th PHASE OF SUPER CYCLONE AMPHAN RELIEF MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

13th Phase of Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Choudhury More (riverside area), Jharkhali G.P under Jharkhali Coastal P.S
 Distribution : Tarpaulin sheets, bleaching powder, lime (chuna), dry food kits to 50 pax



1st Cyclone Amphan Relief work Support Kitchen at Chunakhali,
Chunakhali G.P, Jharkhali P.S
Distribution : Cooked meals served to 200 pax



2nd Cyclone Amphan Relief work Support Kitchen at Nafargunj Village,
Nafargunj G.P under Jharkhali Coastal P.S
Distribution : Cooked food served to 120 pax



3rd Cyclone Amphan Relief work Support Kitchen at Jana Para,
Chunakhali G.P, Jharkhali P.S
Distribution : Cooked food served to 200 pax



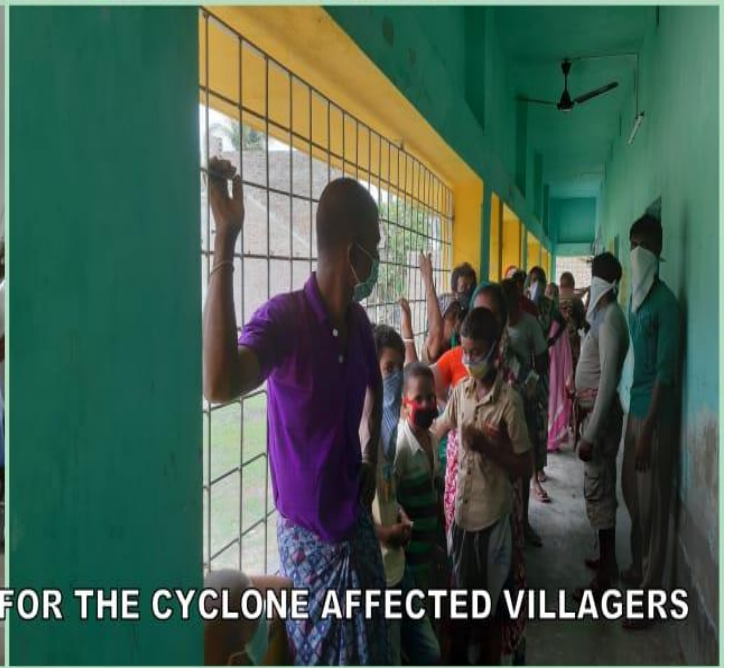
1st General Health check up Camp for Cyclone Amphan Relief work



2nd General Health check up camp for Cyclone Amphan Relief work



3rd General Health check up camp for Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Basirhat Range, Kalidaspur G.P, Mollakhali P.S



4th GENERAL HEALTH CHECK UP CAMP FOR THE CYCLONE AFFECTED VILLAGERS

4th General Health check up camp for Cyclone Amphan Relief work at Basirhat Range, Kalidaspur G.P, Mollakhali P.S

CONCLUSION

Cyclone Amphan was an unprecedented disaster that left a swathe of total destruction in its wake. Relief work and support in such times is not just short term. We need to understand that help will be required by the affected places for a long time. There has been immense losses. Loss of homes and livelihoods and loss of any income. These are life changing and can damage a community. Solutions for sustainable and long term development need to be planned and implemented. This will be an on going project.