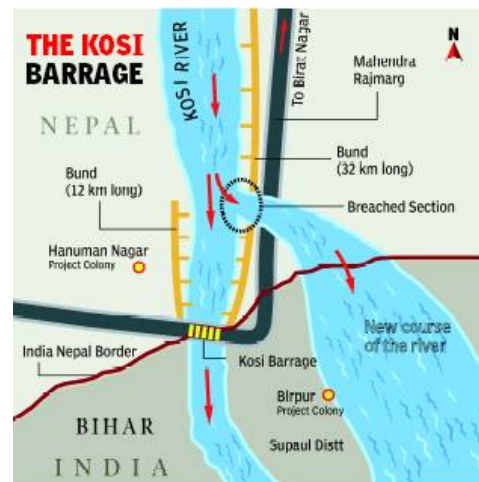


Krishna Arpanam (Mumbai) and SSVK (Bihar)

Response to flood relief needs in Madhepura, Murliganj area

Krishna Arpanam the name for all N. M. Budhrani Trust programs, came true once again, when we were presented with an opportunity to serve those affected by the disaster that struck some of the districts in Bihar. In collaboration with **SSVK**, the organization which has the local field level expertise, the “**Krishna Arpanam flood Relief**” program was initiated.



On 5th September'08, a joint team visited the Beldaur Nahar embankment area and the West of Dinapatti railway station area and found the need to support almost 800 families (population of 5600 flood affected people, which includes 2154 children). This stretch is almost 8 to 10kms in length. The team met the DDC, who appreciated the effort. On the same day a letter was submitted to the District Magistrate's office informing them of the work to be carried out, with a copy to the NGO cell located in the same building.



Relief Camp set up at Beldaur nahar serving hot cooked fresh meals to flood affected families, two times / day

The process involved an understanding of the need, population to be served and resources thus required.

We set up 04 numbers of relief camps, and started with support system to serve 800 families with a population of 5600 adults and 2154 children. Though the flood waters did not recede, human nature is get back home, in what-so-ever condition it may be. As this patch was the last spot where people could go up to, their frustration on not being able to go further led them to set up a temporary shelter on the Beldaur Nahar. Due to this the number of families that we ended up supporting grew to 1705 families with a population of 13,640 people.

These camps were operational from 07th Sept'08 till 31st Oct'08. The following support was provided during this period:

- 1205 families provided with polythene sheet
- Two meals / person / day
- Two biscuit packets / day to 6334 children
- 200ml milk to these children 3 times / week
- Medical support thru health worker based at each relief camp
- One non formal school at each camp
- 8 nos hand pumps to provide water for drinking & cooking

- UNICEF support with 427 polythene sheets, multi-vitamin tablets, ORS, bleaching powder, halozone tablets, water testing kit etc.
- Apart from above, UNICEF also extended its support at these 4 camps by incorporating training of 23 health volunteers in carrying out special supplementation programs of administering Vitamin A supplementation to 700 children in the age group 9 months to 5 years, de-worming dose to 705 children in the age group 2 to 5 years, IFA supplementation to 53 pregnant women, 292 lactating mothers and 279 adolescent girls.
- SSVK out of its resources ran a **child care centre** at each of these 4 camps for a wide variety of purposes including games, tuition classes, peer activities and pre schools. These centers continue to this day although they have been relocated to the villages from which the beneficiaries came.



SSVK grassroots volunteers in a meeting in child care centre run by ssvk in murliganj district Madhepura

The systematic approach of serving these flood affected families thru identity slips and proper record maintenance led to support from like minded organizations like AIDMI (All India Disaster Mitigation Institute), UNICEF, Tulsi Trust and Bhojraj Charitable Trust . Our request to the DM Madhepura's office to support with electricity was also met with a positive response and generator

support was provided. We sincerely thank DM Madhepura and other supporting organizations for this support which encouraged us to sustain our efforts.

We even received a request from the DM Madhepura to try and extend our services in another four areas, but limited resources forced us to restrict ourselves to the task on hand.

By mid October we saw distribution of government resources to the flood affected families located on Beldaur Nahar, like cash of Rs. 2,250/-, 50kg of rice and 50kg of wheat. In addition two community kitchens had just started to support this population. We were also given to understand that a second round of such support could take place by end Jan'09.

Teams from DM Madhepura office, UNICEF, Save The Children Fund, AIDMI, IIDS & Consultant of Swiss Red Cross Switzerland and United Way of Mumbai have highly appreciated the well organized camps run by N. M. Budhrani Trust & SSVK.

Going forward the need to rehabilitate these families, re-vitalization of education, health and livelihood will be of utmost importance.

We welcome your feedback, and you can reach either of us for the same

1.Deepak.S.Bhatia -NMBT – 09821222506; email: nmbudhranitrust@yahoo.co.in

2.Deepak Bharti – SSVK - 09431025801; email: ssvkindia@gmail.com , info@ssvk.org

* * * * *