

# Krishna Arpanam (Mumbai) and SSVK (Bihar)

## Response to flood relief needs in Madhepura MurliGanj area, update 1

**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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Resources were quickly mobilized and the following program has been implemented:

- An immediate survey was carried out to assess the need.
- The survey revealed a need to support 800 families, which included 2154 children. More families are coming back towards this area in the hope to go back to their homes, but, till the water level recedes they have no choice but to stay on this embankment. Thus the numbers to be supported are increasing.
- Identity slips have been issued to the families thus surveyed.
- 04 (four) numbers of Krishna Arpanam & SSVK supported relief camps have been set up and the following facilities are being provided to them:
  1. Two packets of biscuits are given daily to all the children
  2. A cup of milk (200ml) is given to each child 3 times / week
  3. Two full meals, comprising of Rice, Dal, Chokha (mashed potatoes mixed with masala & mustard oil) or Potato curry, is being served to all the 5600 people.
  4. One Polythene sheet (size 15 x 12) has been given to these families to enable them have a roof for their temporary shelter
  5. One health worker with medicines has been posted in each of the camps, who visits each shelter and provides medicine support to those in need. Going further, support from the team of WHO has been established. Efforts to support pregnant women & malnourished children are underway. For these cases weighing scale, blood pressure instrument, ORS, multi-vitamins, calcium, folic acid, iron tablets would be made available with support from WHO shortly.
  6. 08 numbers of hand pumps have been installed in this stretch of 10kms, which now gives easy access to clean drinking water to almost 8000 people daily.
- These relief camps will provide the above services for two months. To accomplish this cooks from the camp area have been hired. SSVK has supported with 25volunteers that are based in these camps and stay with the flood affected people, to support them and maintain all required records. Food stocks are kept in a school building in Saharsa and transported to the camps when required.
- As cold season would set in by the first week of October, two blankets and one durry will be provided to each of these families by the first week of October'08.

One of the relief camps thus set up and meal service in progress is shown below:



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## Response to flood relief needs in Madhepura MurliGanj area, update 2

As on 29<sup>th</sup> September morning 4am, there is heavy rain and cyclonic winds in the area where we work. The winds are so strong, that the tarpaulin tent in camp no. 1 was blown away. The locals managed to get it back and fixed it again. This has not deterred the volunteers who are in the camps and continue to work with full dedication. This kind of weather is usually there for 15 to 20days in October every year.

The challenge to our relief work increased with the connecting bridge unable to bear the weight. Relief work still continued in full swing, with Krishna Arpanam & SSVK volunteers (seen in white T-shirt in the picture below) carried the relief material on their shoulders across the bridge. The material was then loaded onto tractors at the other end of the bridge and transported another 12 to 15kms, to Beldaur nahar, where the relief camps are located.



The other interesting thing is the survey at the start of relief work revealed 703 families with population of 4045 people. As people have started to return to their homes, but are unable to reach there, they have settled on the embankment where our camps are located. The updated survey now has 1205 families with a population of 7332 people. **This has led us to re-doing a detailed assessment of the ration required & the funds thereof.**

Since our relief efforts began on 07<sup>th</sup> September, people from various organizations have visited our relief camps. The systematic approach towards the relief work has helped us win some appreciation & support as well:

- UNICEF has agreed to support our camp area with ORS, bleaching powder (25bags), halozone tablets (72,300) etc which will help us maintain a hygienic surrounding, provide clean drinking water & give emergency support for Diarrhea cases.
- All India Disaster Mitigation Institute - located in Ahmedabad, visited our camp area and were impressed with the work. They have joined our program with a one week support at camp no. 4, which has 294families. Their funds will be utilized to procure ration, milk & biscuits for flood affected people in this camp.
- A blanket manufacturer is supporting us with a donation of 1000 blankets. He has been very generous to support us with a very special rate for another 1400 blankets that we need to purchase, to enable us fulfill our commitment of 2blankets per family.
- We have been able to start Non Formal education for the children in our relief camps. Goonj, a Delhi based organization, again very happy to see the progress in our camps, has given chalk, slates, toys and clothes for the children at the camps. They have also given a bucket to each of the 1205 families.

DM Madhepura has sent a request through the control room, to extend the camp in another 4 areas.

We will be glad to answer your queries if any, and welcome your feedback on how we can do better. You can also commit your donations to us, which we will use as effectively as we can.

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