



SF Chapter(Projects) Asha <sf.projects@ashanet.org>

Digamparpur Angikar (New Project) - Review, revisions, final call for questions before poll

Asha-SF Projects <sf.projects@ashanet.org>

Mon, Apr 14, 2014 at 10:02 AM

To: asha-sf-active@googlegroups.com

Cc: Megha Sharma <sharma.megha@gmail.com>, Ajoy K Saha <ajoyasha@gmail.com>

Hi all,

This is a status update of proposed new project **DIGAMPUR ANGIKAR** - preprimary education for 90 children, majority of who are children of sex workers and victims of human trafficking in Sunderban area of West Bengal.

Based on our due diligence so far, a revised budget is suggested for consideration **+\$2850 from original** (total revised Rs 6,52, 500, total original Rs 4,81,842)

After reading below email, if you have any questions - particularly about **REVISED BUDGET** (scroll to bottom) - , **please email Megha (sharma.megha@gmail.com) and Namita (sf.projects@ashanet.org) by Sunday April 20**. We will proceed to poll soon after, on the basis of revised budget.

Thanks,
Namita
Projects Coordinator, Asha SF

DIGAMPUR ANGIKAR - project proposal review status

- **On Dec 1, 2013**, project was selected as **one of the five final projects** qualifying for detailed due diligence by Asha SF
- **On Feb 22, 2014**, **chapter reviewed this project in detail** in special meeting (9 attendees), during which steward Megha presented the project proposal and other key insights from her communications with project president Mr Swapan Mandal. Based on our review, **we liked what we learned about Digambarpur** (*also supported by Action Aid, have a respectable primary school as well, budget was affordable, no of children served is high (total 90), children have already been identified, organization does other good community work etc*)
- **On Mar 31, 2014** - Chapter had several additional questions for the project, **answers** to which have been received and **reviewed by steward and Projects Coord as satisfactory**. (*Document also includes (Ques 8) market rates of essential food items to give us a better idea of high food costs of lentil, rice, potato, biscuits etc*)
- **Apr 10, 2014** - We also received a very **detailed site visit report by Ajoy** (active asha-wide volunteer) who spent one whole day (Mar 29) at project sites with president, Mr Swapan
 - Ajoy **reviews the organizational favorably** based on what he saw and heard from students,

teachers and staff during personal interviews. He has brought to our attention the tremendous impact of some of Digambarpur's other initiatives such as organic farming, primary school, women's rights advocacy, anti-human trafficking etc.

- It is Ajoy's assessment after the visit, that the budget submitted is not just reasonable, but perhaps low, relating to food, teacher salaries and aaya (helper) salary
 - He explains in detail how the children appeared malnourished due to poverty as the Rs 5 per day per child cost (requested by project) only covers some basic items (dry fruit, biscuit) in the morning, which does not sustain the children till afternoon. **Ajoy recommends that we support Rs 10-15 food cost per day per child**, so that at least hot lunch is provided and the kids are not hungry through the day
 - Teacher salaries appeared low (Rs 2,000 per month requested by project) compared to cost of living and also how much work they are doing in the school. **Ajoy recommends Rs 2,500 per month**
 - Aaya salaries appeared low (Rs 1,500 per month requested by project) compared to cost of living and also how much work they are doing in the school **Ajoy recommends Rs 2,000 per month**
 - Once center (of total 3) appeared too cramped to accommodate the 30 children. Ajoy was told by Mr Swapan that if the rent is increased from Rs 1000 to Rs 1500 per month, they may have access to more space
 - Ajoy discussed this with Mr Swapan, and Mr Swapan agreed with the observations

- **Apr 13, 2014** - We decided to have a phone call (Namita) with Mr Swapan to probe further. Based on his clarifications, which we are satisfied with, **we propose revisions:**
 - **1. Food** - It appears necessary to increase food cost from Rs 5 to Rs 10 per day (for 300 school days per year) to provide for cooked, nutritious lunch. If any further cost is necessary to meet this item, Digambarpur will meet it with private funds. **This adds \$2,250 to the budget**
 - **2. Aaya salary** - Since this lunch will be prepared and served by aaya, whose salary is anyway on the lower side (Rs 1,500 per month), it would be reasonable to increase her salary to Rs 2,000 per month. **This adds \$300 to the budget**
 - **3. Teacher's salary** - Can be considered to be increase from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 per month. **This adds \$300 to the budget**

REVISED BUDGET AMOUNT - INR 6,52, 500, \$10,844

ORIGINAL BUDGET AMOUNT - INR 4, 81, 842, \$8,000

Projects Team's rationale for increase in budget

- 1) Increase appears necessary to adequately serve children, teachers and staff for health and security reasons
- 2) The chapter has additional funds from Holi (~ +\$12,000k), Zumba (\$??), not previously budgeted for in our 3-year revenue forecasting
- 3) Project disbursement to Aseema turned out to be lower than planned, thereby freeing up some additional funds (~ +\$1,000)

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Namita Gujral

Projects Coordinator
Asha-San Francisco