CMS Amphan Report, Relief & Rehabilitation Proposal

The powerful cyclone Amphan, accompanied by heavy rainfall hit Sundarban on 20th May 2020 speeding at 180 kmph. It continued throughout the day and night from 11a.m. to 11 p.m. killing a few people, flooding almost all the islands of Sundarban, uprooting trees, destroying a huge number of thatched huts, mud houses, asbestos sheets, washing away agricultural crops, vegetables, devastating embankments, leaving countless number of birds, animals, fishes dead and thus dis-balancing the flora and fauna of the world heritage delta. There is no electricity, no drinking water at some places. Many people took shelter in some school-buildings. Now they have gone to their own homes and they are trying their best to repair with woods, bamboos, polythene, etc.

The conditions of some houses are really bad- some huts have been totally damaged and some have been partly damaged. Vegetation has been affected and the places where the embankments were broken vegetation have been totally destroyed. There is a great loss of agricultural crops. The land where the salt water had entered into the islands has become barren for normal production of paddy and vegetables for few years because the soil has lost fertility. Added with COVID situation now many people are in starvation. They need food materials on urgent basis. The children need baby food also on urgent basis. Some families whose houses have been damaged need tarpaulins immediately.

The previous livelihood was farming, rearing of animals, fishing, daily labour. But due to lock-down the labours are not getting work. They have no income now. There are so many fishermen, honey collectors who go to the forest for fishing, catching crabs and collecting honey. Now they are unable to run their family. Apart from this, the migrant labours are coming to different islands of Sundarban from different states like Kerala, Delhi, Maharastra, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh. COVID had damaged the economic condition of the poor people of Sundraban but amphan has totally destroyed them.

**CMS Area Reach**

C.M.S area is mainly Basanti and Gosaba islands of Sundarban. About 8000 people, mainly women, are involved in our different activities including self-help groups.

*BASANTI P.S.: Villages=* Shibganj, Kumirmari, Ballartop, Ranigarh, Jyotishpur, Harekrishnapur, Tridibnagar, Bharatgarh. 8

*GOSABA P.S.:* Villages= Satyanarayanpur, Mathurakhanda, Amlamethi, Bali, Bijoynagar, Birajnagar. 6

**CMS plan/capacity to reach out other villages:-**

*Basanti:* villages*=* Jharkhali(flood area)Anandabad, Dighirparh, Kalidanga, Purandar(flood area), Radhaballvpur, Geokhali, Gadhkhali.

*Gosaba:* villages= Rangabelia(flood area), Surjaberia(flood area), Kumirmari(flood area), Kalidaspur(flood area), Puinjali(flood area), Pakhirala, Satjelia, Lahiripur, Sonaga, Hentalbari, Sadhupur, Mitrabari, Rajat jubillee.

C.M.S. can reach 3000 Amphan affected families of Sundarban for immediate food materials as Amphan relief and 1000 Amphan affected people for animal rearing, nutrition garden and plantation.

Many houses were fully and partly damaged in different islands of Sundarban. But those are out of our reach. The known places where we can reach and help for house repairing has been included. People are trying their best to repair their own houses as per their capacity. They are also taking loan from other places. The Govt. has given emphasis on house making grants. So many people will get this help. The Govt. has decided to make 4 lakhs houses in the first phase out of 14 lakh houses. The Govt. has already started to count this number from panchayet and B.D.O. office. This is totally controlled by Govt. If we want to make or repair some houses then there will be a problem. The Govt. will interfere. Some additional help may be extended for the families living just near the river bank of irrigation or forest land cannot make the permanent house for having no proper documents of land. 100 families can be assisted @ Rs. 15,000 per family. It is very difficult to identify the full or half damaged houses in different islands of Basanti and Gosaba. There are 9 islands in only Gosaba. We are very busy now for relief works for the starving people affected by Amphan.

Rather we have an alternate proposal for the flood-stricken people of Sundarban. Sundarban is such a place where cyclone happens now and then. It is better to make 2 'shelter place' for the flood stricken people at the river side- one at Jharkhali in Basanti and another at Mathurakhanda in Gosaba. When the embankment will breach, people mainly mothers and children can take shelter to save their life. Throughout the year, school will go on there and at the time of natural calamity, people will take shelter. More than 400 people will take shelter in those two flood centres. It will be 120 ft. length and 25 ft.  width with 8 rooms, kitchen, toilet facilities. The flood centre will be of 3000 sq. ft. It will cost about Rs. 75,00,000(3000sq.ft. building @ Rs. 2500/sq.ft.) per flood center. This will be a historical step in Sundarban for saving life in disaster and continuing education program throughout the year. The cost of 2 flood centres will be of Rs. 1,50,00000.

As per the previous instruction of the Govt. the schools will open on 10th June 2020 but today as per the newspaper, Govt. will open the school on 1st July 2020. In the mean time the rest three H.S. examinations will be held at the end of June. We are waiting for the final order of the Education Dept, Govt. of West Bengal. Govt. has started classes through online but the rural students without smart phone or T.V. cannot avail such facility. Our teachers are meeting the students at their home and motivating them to carry on studying. But ultimately the students are being deprived of education. The Govt. is also afraid to open the school for Covid’19. Now it has been hampered due to lack of electricity. The students of Sundarban area are deprived in every way.

There are 402 tiger victim widows in Basanti and Gosaba islands of Sundarban for whom CMS supports in its limited scope. Their conditions are very miserable as they have lost their husbands. They have no earning members in those families. Now due to lock-down and Amphan they are facing a lot of problems for food. They need food materials. We want to involve them in income generation program like rearing of animals so they can earn in future.

Realizing the local needs of Amphan affected people of Basanti and Gosaba,Sundarban. C.M.S. is thinking to give some tarpaulins and to supply food materials for babies and others. In near future C.M.S. is thinking to make the affected women including tiger-widow mothers self-supported in animal rearing by giving them goats. C.M.S. also is planning to give them fruit and timber trees to those families for meeting up nutrition considering the environment of Sundarban. C.M.S. is planning to give seeds to those families for seasonal nutrition garden. To save lives during natural calamity, it is better to make two buildings for their shelter and education purpose throughout the year. As Govt. is seriously thinking for making houses, we should not follow that path.

**FINAL RELIEF PROPOSAL**

a) *Tarpaulin*: 500 pcs @ Rs. 500;

 **Total Tarpaulin cost- Rs. 2,50,000 /-**

b) *Baby food items*:

Amul milk (1k.g.) - Rs.365
Sugar (1kg) - Rs.45
Suji(1kg)- Rs.45
Biscuit- Rs.45
Total- Rs.500 per baby
 **Total(For 800 babies) = Rs. 4,00,000 /-**

c) *General food items*:

Rice 6kg: Rs.192
Lentils 1kg- Rs.84
Potato 3 kg- Rs.66
Edible oil 1 kg- Rs.120
Muri 1kg- Rs. 58
Chire 1kg- Rs. 44
Salt 500gm- Rs.06
Onion 1kg- Rs.20
Soap 1 piece- Rs.10
Vegetable- Rs.50
Total Rs. 650 per family
 **Total food cost for 525 families = Rs. 3,41,250 /-**Carrying cost – Rs. 8,750

 **Total Carrying cost = Rs. 8,750 /-**

**Total Relief Fund Request = Rs. 10,00,000/-**

**FINAL REHABILITATION PROPOSAL**

**Repair of CMS building for SBB (Shibgunj)**

Asbestos: 32 pcs(5 ft.),

16 pcs(6.5 ft.), 5 pcs(10ft.) ; Total-Rs.28,300
Wood: Rs.2700 per qb for 3 qb: Rs.8,100
Nut-bolts & others- Rs.1950
Cost of Carpenter- Rs.2,600
 **Total- Rs. 40,950**

**SSB building (Amlamethi island)**

Main building repair work:

Asbestos: 12 pcs(10ft.) Rs.6,500
Wood: 1qb@2700 per qb- 2,700
Nut-bolts & others- Rs.650
Cost of Carpenter- Rs.2,100
Door of a toilet- Rs.1,800
 **Total- Rs. 13,750**

**Flood Center/Shelter**

Total cost – Rs. 18,00,000

Asking from Asha – Rs. 11,45,300 (Rest they will arrange from other donors/sources)

 **Total- Rs. 11,45,300**

**Proposal for income generation of the poorest people of Sundarban. It will be a permanent income generation program for them**.

*Plantation and distribution of fruit trees*:

It is very important because many trees have been uprooted.

2 fruit trees (mango, sapeda, lemon) and 1 timber tree @ Rs. 250 per family for 500 families.

 **Total - Rs. 1,25,000**

*Seeds for vegetable production:*

Rs. 350 per family for 500 families.

**Total – Rs. 1,75,000**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Total Cost** |
| SBB School Repair work | Rs 40,950 |
| SSB School Repair work | Rs 13,750 |
| Flood Center/ Shelter Building near SSB School | Rs 11,45,300 |
| Plantation distribution (500 families) | Rs 1,25,000 |
| Vegetable seed distribution (500 families) | Rs 1,75,000 |
| **Total Rehabilitation Request** | **Rs 15,00,000** |

**Flood Center/ Shelter details:**

During Amphan many villagers took shelter in our two school buildings, both were built with Asha for Education's support. We have a proposal to make a shelter for the flood/cyclone stricken people near Surendra Smriti Bidyaniketan (SSB) School in Amlamethi village/ island.  It is a place surrounded by 5 rivers close to the Bay of Bengal. The people and livelihood of that area greatly suffer during cyclones/floods.  This building will be used as shelter for the people affected by natural calamity. This will benefit the families of students living in the area. We can complete the flood centre within 18-20 lacs, building spacious rooms with other facilities like toilet, bathroom and kitchen where many people including women, children & older persons can take shelter. We will do our best to collect the additional cost from our side. It will not be as big we planned initially but we can always expand as we have more funds. It will be utilized throughout the year for education purposes, with the main objective of its use during natural disasters like flood or cyclone.