Dear All,

This is in continuation of my ground zero reporting from Sunderban on the Amphan calamity. More scary news unfolding from places wherever connection is being established. Not a single tree is standing unimpacted. Not a single house is unimpacted. People are crying out for food and tarpaulin and for other essentials, as no belongings are left in most of the houses.

All 8000 of our Mukti volunteers are also impacted; initially they took care of themselves and are now focusing more and more on community work. We are working in 9 Blocks of 24 Pargs South (Kakdwip, Sagar, Namkhana, Patharpratima, Mathurapur I & II, Joynagar I & II and Kultali). We are targeting to reach 50000 households.

Immediate work is being prioritized as below:

1. Road clearing and removing uprooted trees
2. Rebuilding of river embankments
3. Taking care of essential needs of camps where thousands of people are living after losing everything.
4. De-watering (removing saline water from ponds and canals) so that rain water can be reserved to use for daily use and agriculture

Approach is to work 1st week on relief and then as fast as possible to convert support into food-for-work. We need to understand that we have to rebuild basic infrastructure as fast as possible before monsoon starts, which is supposed to hit in middle of June. That is why our mantra is Work, Work and Work to rebuild. Here we will take care of basic needs of families for a couple of weeks when local people would focus on rebuilding.

** Side by side we have to keep in mind the possibilities of COVID19 infection when performing rebuilding activities. It would be difficult, but there is no choice.

For detailed planning on recovery, we may have to wait at least a week for further assessment.

Looking for following materials, and funds to procure them on urgent basis.

Water, Dry food, other Food items, Mosquito net, Tarpaulin, Utensils and Medicines, doctors, transport vehicles.
Appeal from Mukti to all national and international disaster management bodies, NGOs and individuals to come forward and support in whatever way is possible. We have to stand for humanity and a joint collaborative approach is absolutely needed to handle such a macro level disaster.

Amphan combined with COVID19 outbreak is a historical disaster for West Bengal, India. We need to be confident and work together. I am sure “We shall overcome”.

Thanks, and Regards

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