



July - Sept 2017

Flood Sweeps away Marang's Dream



LWF Nepal

Marang Mai Soren, 27, a resident of Dhanpalthan Rural Municipality ward no. 6 Khayartole in Morang district, is one of the people affected by the recent floods in the Tarai of Nepal. She not only lost her house, food stock, clothes, and household effects, but also the standing crops and vegetables.

The flood in the Lohondra River not only swept away all her belongings on the night of 13 August 2017, rendering her homeless, but also her dream. She had cultivated vegetable as a sharecropper in 8 Kattha (29,000sq feet) of land. But the entire farm has been covered by sediment. Marang has a hard time to feed her family as she has no food grains left, no money to buy food and clothes,

and no hope for harvesting crops and vegetables anytime soon.

She not only lost her crops and fertile land, but also an opportunity to cultivate crops and vegetables for her livelihood, as the entire agriculture land in her vicinity and afar have completely been covered by sediment.

As per the preliminary damage assessed by the Ministry of Agricultural Development, the agriculture sector has incurred a loss of US\$ 286 million in 31 districts and the loss is likely to rise. Paddy, vegetables, and fish were the most affected products.

These are only the immediate effects of the floods. Many are yet to be seen. The complete damage to crops is likely to continue in food shortages throughout the year. And for the

majority of the affected people like Marang Mai, recovering from the loss of property and means of livelihood will take many years.

Apart from crops and vegetables, almost all households lost their livestock, which is a supplementary source of livelihood for the poor people. According to an initial report of the Ministry of Livestock Development, the livestock sector has incurred a loss of around US\$ 10 million from the deaths of livestock and damage to farms and other infrastructure.

Therefore, the flood has a far-reaching consequences on the life, livelihood and environment. It calls for a huge resources, time, energy and commitment to build back better. ■

LWSIT Adopt Inclusive Approach in Humanitarian Response



Suleiman Ali on his way back to home after receiving Relief Materials

LWSIT

Mohanpur-1 village is near the bank of mighty river Brahmaputra and always prone to flooding whenever the river water level rises due to rain during the month of June to September.

As like past years, this year too, the village also experienced flooding situation due to incessant rains for several days during July and August, the village was marooned with flood water.

This year, it was different story as the deluge came twice i.e., first in July and second in

August 2017. Consequently, the villagers of Mohanpur-1 village under Pachonia Khoragaon GP, Srijangram Revenue Circle in Bongaigaon district of Assam suffered much as the flood water remained stagnant for several days. During this period, the villagers compelled to take shelter at higher grounds, roads and embankments.

Considering the need of the flood affected population, succour was distributed by LWSIT to more than 2,000 families.

Sri Suleiman Ali, 55 years of age is one

of the right holders who received relief assistance. He lives in Mohanpur-1 village with his family having eight members.

He was struggling at the onset of flood disaster and unable to cope with the flood situation particularly to take care of the families. He belongs to a very poor and minority family, his right hand is almost dysfunctional and unable to do work to support his family.

Mostly, he has to depend on his family for his survival. Under such circumstances, the food

items viz. dry ration in the form of rice, pulses, soy chunk, edible oil and iodized salt provided by LWSIT to Sri Ali on time was helped him immensely.

He has expressed his satisfaction for the materials he had received and thanked LWSIT. In a very emotional note, Sri Ali said that, 'Let God bless this organization and serve the people those are suffering from crisis'.

He has mentioned that, this is the first NGO to have distributed relief aid in the village since the flood in July and August.

LWSIT Commitment for Not to Leave Anyone Behind



Smt. Sabia Bewa with Relief Materials

LWSIT

Smt. Sabia Bewa (60 years), a resident of Dolonibil village, Assam lives with her eldest son in a family of 5 members. Her husband expired a few years ago.

The village was flooded in July and August this year which caused havoc damage to the family of Smt. Sabia.

Dolonibil village is the habitation for 120 Muslim families which is situated at the bank of River Brahmaputra. They have no other place to go other than to leave at the embankment of river at the context of flood situation.

Sometimes, people have to leave for weeks till the water recedes from their vil-

lage and ensure normalcy.

At the onset of flood disaster, Smt. Sabia was helpless and looked gloomy, unable to decide what to do and where to go. She is primarily an unskilled daily labour worker and her livelihood depends on this.

In view of the flood disaster where entire standing crops were under water, it was extremely difficult for her to engage in agricultural works and ensure earning to maintain her family.

She didn't have enough income to buy food during flood situation. Many people understand the situation of Smt. Sabia, but hardly anybody realize the difficult situation faced by her in order ensure food need

for herself and for her family members.

It was LWSIT who stand with her and provided emergency rations in the form of materials and provided temporary shelter materials. The spontaneous response with emotions came out from her is that, anybody (Lutheran) who does not know her are the real friends in need.

'I will never forget the support received from this organization and I pray to Allah for the blessing to those help me and this Lutheran Sangstha' she expressed with weeping. Also she said, let this sangstha help much more families like those are destitute and helplessness.

RDRS' emergency response to flood affected people



RDRS Bangladesh

RDRS Bangladesh is continuing its emergency response to the flood affected people in its working area in northern region of Bangladesh. The organization has taken an initiative to assist about 24,000 flood affected families in five districts Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gai bandha, Dinajpur and Panchagarh. RDRS is providing assistance in kind and cash which is worth of 2.2 million Taka (equivalent to USD 279,583).

Bangladesh was hit by devastating flood in July and August this year. Most of the part of north-west Bangladesh was inun-

dated which caused severe sufferings of the people and massive damages of lands, crops and infrastructures. About 1,200,000 people were affected by the flood. 70,000 people had to move to other places to find safe shelter during



flood. 50,000 hectares crop-lands were damaged while at least 165,000 hectors was inundated. Many bridges,

culverts, roads and schools were also damaged.

RDRS takes immediate action to provide support (food and non-food relief items) to the severely affected people from its emergency fund. Later, different partner organizations and donors came forward with their support. During flood, RDRS provided support with food items such as rice, lentil, potato, salt, edible oil, high protein biscuit, dry food, cooked food, oral saline etc. RDRS is now providing post-flood assistance with cash grant to rehabilitate the affected people in its working area.

Strengthening life-skills through adult literacy



Daw Har Tee practicing for Myanmar language writing in the class

LWF Myanmar

In 2016, LWF Myanmar initiated an Adult Literacy program for improving education for elderly persons in Chin in collaboration with the Myanmar Literacy Resource Center. The organization organized a five-day ToT training in Mindat and a four-day refresher training for eight teachers. The program activities reached eight villages and 85 (F-83, M-2) people benefited. LWF Myanmar also provided stationary, excises books, and blackboards to the teachers.

Daw Har Tee (42) is one of the participants of the Adult Literacy program in Chin State. Although, she was eager to be a literate person once, she had to give up all her dreams since she was a child to support her siblings as the eldest sister among them. But right now, she has a son and six daughters.

"I feel so dissatisfied with myself, because I see a lot of opportunities but I couldn't do anything as an illiterate person. If I had a proper education, I would become more

productive.

Whenever she visited to the town in the past, she faced different challenges. She shared her experiences as, "Whenever I go to the town I see so many Advertising Billboards, but I don't know what they are about? I really want to understand those. And sometimes, I face lot difficulties in finding my way as I could not read directions."

One day, Daw Har Tee was very pleased to hear about the Literacy Class of LWF Myanmar through one of the Staff and she quickly decided to to join. Despite she here excitement, she has a lot to consider about her family and household tasks, she tried to attend the school with the courage and understanding of her husband.

"I really want to learn even if in addition I have to take care of my children and do my house work. But, I could leave all those things behind. At first day of the training, it is really hard for me to memorize all the vocabularies. So when they ask me to write, I cannot write

well. And new words are my biggest challenge. Meanwhile, I have no time to practice at home so I finished my studies within my class. Sometimes, I had to leave my training as I was busy with seasonal work as planting and harvesting" she said.

Among the LWF's Literacy implementing activities supported villages, people who attend the basic education from Pee Huu Village are so enthusiastic in their studies and eager to be literate. Normally, they attend two hours a day, but in some days when there is no work to do, they attend the whole day.

Daw Har Tee continued her story, "Now I can read the texts which do not include Pali Words. And the flyers and street names too. Moreover, I can even spell my name by myself now. I am so proud of my progress and would like to thank all the teachers who teach us although they are busy and most importantly Lutheran World Federation which offered this valuable training."

About AZEECON

AZEECON is an informal, member-led regional network of field programs and Associate Programs of Lutheran World Federation/Dept of World Service active in promoting disaster risk reduction in seven countries.

AZEECON's primary role is primarily capacity-building - facilitating practical, peer-to-peer learning in the broad field of LRRD (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation & Development) responding to mem-

bers' needs and priorities. AZEECON offers a convenient and cost-effective platform for member organisations and staff to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and interact regionally.

Over the past 5 years, over 500 staff have participated in the range of capacity-building activities conducted in topics such as Trafficking, Food Security, Climate Change, HAP, SPHERE Standards, Youth, Advocacy, RBA etc.

Country Members



ASIAN ZONE EMERGENCY AND ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION NETWORK



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