

EFICOR'S RESPONSE TO ASSAM FLOODS

The flood situation in the state of Assam, India, has worsened over the past 2 months. The state has seen two episodes of flooding, one in the month of May 2022, affecting 22 districts out of the total 36 districts in the State. In the month of June 22', the state faced the second flooding affecting 30 districts out of the 36 districts comprising 118 Revenue Circles and 4291 villages. The situation looks grim as the total death toll increased to 173 and leaving 29.70 lakh people in 30 districts affected as on July 2. Infrastructure like roads, bridges, schools, health centres etc have been badly affected with many locations still inundated therefore disrupting communication and connectivity. Such intensity of flooding is unusual, though Assam has experienced floods in the past. The impact of the flood is more on human life and property as the losses and damages are huge. Agricultural fields are totally damaged. Sanitation and hygiene are a major challenge especially for women. As per initial estimates, 16,208 houses have been fully damaged, and 110,284 houses have been partially damaged during the two flood waves. Food security and nutrition, WASH, access to social protection measures, continuity of education and protection services are the prior needs of the flood affected communities.



EFICOR Team comprising of three members reached Silchar on 5th July 2022, and conducted a need assessment with the support of NEICORD and Local district administration. The staff met the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar in person and found that Silchar and Borkhalaa and Lakhipur blocks are the most affected areas. In this situation, people from these villages have remained cut-off from the main market and local administration. The road transportation has totally stopped as most villages are submerged under water. The villages which are located along side road have little access to market, but villages located more than two km away from roadside does not have access to market at all. There are no other means of transportation except boat though some villages are accessible by tractor. The road and communication are interrupted due to water lodging which has been a major concern for the residents as they are unable to travel to market for daily necessities or visit hospitals for their health related needs. The water has gone down at silchar city but still flood water's smell and drainage are blocked as the mud slurry carried during the flood has choked the drainage system. The ground floor of homes are fully submerged with water, and people are forced to take shelter in their relatives and neighbors' first floor house or nearby upland houses.

Based on the need EFICOR is planning to provide emergency relief targeting 5000 families in Lakhipur, Silchar and Barkholaa block of Cachar district of Assam states.

The community’s needs:

The community who stay far away from the road are in dire need of food materials and non-food materials since their belongings are totally spoiled because of the flood and are no longer usable. Moreover, government aid and other NGO aid are not reaching out to these people due to disrupted transport and communication. The food materials supplied by govt. like rice and dal are running out as they are given after every 3 days subsequently. The elderly people, children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers are most vulnerable, and they are suffering due to lack of insufficient nutrition, unhygienic living condition and lack of clean drinking water. Thus, such vulnerable categories of people’s needs are unmet. The water lodging and bad odour from flood water create unhygienic condition for living and many people have complained of fever, headache, and body pain. The ASHA worker and AWW are providing some basic medicine but the needs are huge, and it has become a supply chain crisis.

EFICOR work update



EFICOR team coordinated with local administration, community leaders, faith base organization and local NGO NEICORD. The Deputy Commissioner shared the information on most affected blocks like Borkhalaa and Kalaen where EFICOR can work. The team also had a meeting with block level administration at Borkhalla block of Silchar revenue circle and received information on people’s needs and list of most affected villages. The community leaders and volunteers are cooperative, giving us information on the most affected villages and lend us their support by collecting basic information of vulnerable families. With information gathered from various stakeholders, EFICOR initially developed relief package was revised including the relief materials and added Borkhalla as target block along with Silchar and Lakhipur block. EFICOR will provide emergency relief to 5000 families with food and non-food items according to sphere standard. Looking at the special needs of young children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers, EFICOR also added an emergency nutrition kit for children which includes Jaggery, groundnut, and Daliya.

FOOD ITEMS	NON-FOOD ITEMS
Rice- 25 Kgs	Bucket with lid and Jug
Lentil -Masoor Dal	Mosquito Nets
Salt	Tarpaulin (Polyethene Sheet)
Sugar	Sanitary Pad/napkin, Soap, cloth washing soap toothpaste, brush etc
Cooking Oil - Mustard oil	
Species - (Turmeric, Chilly and Coriander powder- each 100 gm)	
Nutrition in Emergency Kit (Jaggery, Groundnut and porridge (Daliya)	

EFICOR team will collaborate and coordinate with other Govt. and NGOs for ensuring the effective reach of humanitarian response to the affected families. It has already started engaging local leaders and volunteers to expediate process of emergency response.