

EFICOR'S RESPONSE TO ASSAM FLOODS

Current Situation in Assam:

The state of Assam has recently witnessed one of the worst floods in history which has been declared a 'severe natural calamity' by the Central Government of India. A total of 197 people have lost their lives due to floods and landslides and the state government has set up 4,075 relief camps and 5,802 relief distribution centres to help the flood-affected people this year so far.



After a short recess, Assam is staring at yet another wave of the flood as four more districts were hit by the deluge in the last 3 days, taking the number of affected districts to nine. The government has informed that the Brahmaputra is showing a rising trend in the past week. The Centre has released Rs. 648.80 crore in 2022-23 as disaster assistance to Assam.

EFICOR Relief Update:

EFICOR has worked in the revenue circles of the Cachar district namely, Lakhipur, Silchar, and Borkholla which were the worst affected, and distributed relief kits to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the natural disaster. On 31st July, EFICOR completed relief operations where 3255 families (approx. 16275 people) from 22 severely affected villages were provided with relief kits including food, non-food, and Hygiene kits. The relief kit consisted of 19 items that have helped the families meet immediate basic needs and cope with the disaster situation.



Coordination with local Organizations:

The EFICOR relief team in Assam has closely coordinated with the government disaster authorities, Sphere India, Inter-Agency Group, NEICORD, a relief and development organization in North East, and Khalsa NGO who are also involved in relief work in the Cachar district.

EFICOR Management Team Visit:

The Executive Director, Lead- Programs, and Manager - Program Quality have visited the project to oversee the relief and get feedback from the beneficiaries on the satisfaction level on quality and quantity of the relief. Many people came forward to express their satisfaction and gratitude for the relief.



Core Humanitarian Standards on Quality and Accountability:

The CHS commitments have been of top priority from the beginning to the close of the intervention. The relief operation has ensured that quality, effective and accountable support and assistance has been delivered. Those affected by the crisis have been involved in the planning and monitoring of the process. Feedback on The level

of satisfaction has been received and complaint handling and response mechanisms have been explained to the community and active participation is sought in this.

	Partners	Approved/Assured (in INR)
1	ERIKS	80,00,000
2	CEDAR FUND	1,732,236
3	Kerk in Actie	8,79,422
4	Tear Belgium	1,49,791
5	Tearfund Australia	6,40,480
	Total	1,14,01,929

Stories:

Story 1:

Rejia Begum Barbhuiya, age 37, is a recently widowed mother of five (age 5-18) living in Ujan Gram village of Cachar district, Assam, when the June flooding devastated the region.

Less than five months ago, however, Rejia’s husband unexpectedly died of a heart disease. Rejia had borrowed 10,000 rupees from a neighbor to attempt treatment for him, and local customs forbid her from moving out for 4 months after husband’s death so she could not find work. She was reliant on the generosity of others to sustain her and her five children during that time, and she had no way to repay her debt. The flood hit while Rejia was still in seclusion. Rain poured down without stopping for fifteen days, waters surrounded Rejia’s house, and she and her family were trapped inside for over a month. The only option for “using the toilet” was paddling out on a bamboo raft to relieve themselves in the open, away from the house. To manage their menstrual hygiene, Rejia and her sixteen-year-old daughter used torn clothes. They had nothing to eat but rice, and even that was scarce.



On July 18th, EFFICOR relief finally reached Rejia’s family, and at last they had adequate food to eat and sanitary napkins and soap to maintain hygiene. Rejia is finally finished with her time of seclusion and is able to leave the home to find work again. “I never imagined I would get such nice food!” Rejia exclaimed. “The help that EFICOR gave is enough for this poor lady. I’m very happy.”

Story 2:

Aruna Moye Das, a sixty-four-year-old woman, lives along with her husband and daughter in Chandrapur, Silchar Block, Cachar District, and Assam State. She has three daughters and two sons, of which Lavi Das the youngest among the five lives along with her. Moye’s husband is paralyzed after surviving a major accident and her daughter Lavi has a disability. To make ends meet, Moye’s oldest son works in Guwahati, which is 301 KM away from Silchar.

The floods devastated the family's belongings as their house was under up to the waist level. Along with her husband, she was quickly evacuated to the nearby hospital on a bamboo boat, for safety. They lived in the hospital for over two weeks. When she returned home, she was shattered to see that the floods had washed away everything in their home. With limited means to earn income and a long road to recovery ahead, the family needed external aid as the government support was not sufficient to cope with the magnitude of loss. EFICOR, with the help of the government officials and the local Committee, located Chandrapur as one of the most affected places in Silchar. Aruna Moye was selected as one of the recipients of aid and has received a food and hygiene kit which has been a comfort and relief while the family navigates through the trauma of this devastation and moves towards restoring and rebuilding their lives once again.



Story 3:

Abdul Latif Barbhuiya is a lively old man who lives with his eldest son who is a farmer, along with his 4 grandchildren. Through the flood, they lost their family fishery business because the fish were all scattered from the flood. Their rice crops and land was also extremely damaged which has robbed them of any long term sources for food and income. The few farm animals they had were either lost or severely weakened by the flood. While the flood thankfully did not enter their home, they were trapped inside for weeks. They had the means to collect rainwater in a bucket for drinking, and had enough food stored within the house to last them for two weeks, and so they rationed their limited supply of rice and pulses and were able to sustain the family for two weeks with one meal a day. However they were unable to access any vegetables during this time and were trapped within the house for two weeks. Until this day, a month after the flood began, Abdul and his family have not had the opportunity to receive any aid. Today he received a two weeks supply of rice, pulses, oil, hygiene supplies, a tarp, bucket and mosquito net among other crucial items. He explains that this supply will help buy his family time to find labor work because their livelihoods have been lost. It will take 4 to 5 months to recover and regain their assets. Abdul says "I truly love all that eficor is doing. Thank you so much."



Story 4:

Sati Rani Das (32) and her husband Sanjoy Das (40) live in the Chandrapur Village as labour workers with their four-year-old son. When the flood hit, the water came gushing with an immense force, quickly filling the small house up to their chins. They immediately had to flee, and took shelter on a relative's house roof, where they were trapped for the following weeks and shared this roof with 10 other families, and very few resources. They had no time to gather any belongings, and as a result they lost many of their



possessions in the flood, including all their cooking utensils, clothes, and most of their important documents. In the chaos of their survival, their son fell seriously ill, and out of desperation they built a bamboo raft which Sanjoy took into the nearby city to find medicine. For weeks they ate a small portion of once a day and drank the muddy, trash-filled flood water that surrounded them.

It was at this juncture that EFICOR arrived with the promised relief kit, filled with food, buckets, a mosquito net, tarpaulin sheet and hygiene products. They expressed their incredible relief at receiving this kit. They now are able to sleep under the tarp, to collect drinkable rainwater with the bucket, and to sleep much more peacefully through the night under the mosquito net.

Sati Rani and Sanjoy said “we feel very grateful to EFICOR because we had nothing. You came. Thank you for that. Thank you for seeing us.”

EFICOR Relief Work

