



NEADS Assam-Humanitarian assistance to the communities impacted by heavy storm outbreak in Majuli, Assam

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Context

On 20th April 2023, Majuli island in Assam was hit by a massive storm that caused widespread devastation across 17 revenue villages within the Majuli Development Block. Approximately 117 households were affected by this calamity, with 12 families lost their homes entirely and 105 families experiencing partial damage to their houses. Livestock shelters and food grain banks were also impacted by the storm's fury.

The storm, occurring unexpectedly at 6:30 p.m. and lasting for about an hour, caught residents off guard as the weather had been relatively calm earlier in the day. This sudden onset of intense weather created a perilous situation for the affected families, many of whom include elderly individuals, children, pregnant women, and infants. The chaotic conditions made it challenging to evacuate to safer locations amidst the storm's ferocity.

In the aftermath, the island faced disruptions including power outages, fallen trees, and missing domestic animals. The severity of the storm prevented immediate assistance from neighbours or community members, who were focused on ensuring the safety of their own families.

The impacted families belong to the Mishing tribal communities residing in floodplain areas of the Brahmaputra River basin. Agriculture serves as their primary livelihood, supplemented by fishing and other related occupations. However, the region's high susceptibility to floods during the rainy season severely compromises village accessibility, communication, and livelihood sustainability. Annual floods and riverbank erosion have forced these communities into repeated displacement, leading to their marginalization and vulnerability.

Traditionally, the Mishing people thrived along fertile riverbanks, but recurring flooding and displacement have disrupted their livelihood systems. They now live in thatched houses raised on bamboo stilts (Chang Ghar), which offer some protection against floodwaters and wildlife during the rainy season.

The ongoing challenges faced by the Mishing tribal communities highlight the urgent need for comprehensive support and disaster resilience initiatives. Efforts must prioritize rebuilding homes, restoring livelihoods, and strengthening infrastructure to mitigate the impact of future disasters on these vulnerable populations in Majuli, Assam. Addressing the systemic issues of flood-related displacement and poverty is crucial to ensuring the long-term well-being and sustainability of these communities in the face of environmental adversity.

The Project



The project '**Humanitarian assistance to the communities impacted by heavy storm outbreak in Majuli, Assam**' is a vital relief and early recovery initiative aimed at addressing the severe crisis faced by people living in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River basin. This community-centered project will encompass 17 revenue villages under the Majuli development block, directly targeting 117 households and impacting a total of 490 individuals. The primary objectives of this program are to provide immediate humanitarian aid, mitigate storm impacts, and facilitate early recovery among the most affected families.

Specific Objectives of the Proposed Intervention:

1. The project aims to provide WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and dignity kits to 80 families in the reproductive age group, prioritizing the health and well-being of women and girls.
2. Essential dry rations and nutritional support will be provided to 80 families for a period of 60 days, ensuring food security during the recovery phase.
3. Shelter kits and Non-Food Items (NFI) will be distributed to all 117 affected families to assist in rebuilding and restoring their damaged homes and livelihood assets.
4. Children affected by the storm will receive educational and learning materials to facilitate continuity in their education despite the crisis.
5. Training sessions and awareness meetings will be conducted to promote disaster risk reduction practices and address gender-based concerns within the affected communities.
6. Income generation programs will be initiated to restore livelihoods and promote economic recovery among the affected families.
7. The project will establish advocacy linkages and ensure coordination between affected communities and local administration and line departments, fostering support and resources for recovery efforts.

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