

CASE STUDY - 2

“Rising Together After Cyclone Montha”

Cyclone Montha caused severe devastation across vulnerable communities in Narasapur Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. Heavy rains, strong winds, flooding, and prolonged water stagnation severely impacted poor households residing in low-lying SC and ST colonies, fishing communities, and informal settlements. Families lost essential household materials, food stocks, bedding, clothes, cooking utensils, fishing equipment, and access to safe shelter and sanitation facilities.

Recognizing the urgency of the humanitarian crisis, START NETWORK under the initiative “1021 – Cyclone Montha Emergency Response” supported rapid emergency interventions in partnership with India Humanitarian Hub (IHH) and SNIRD (Society for National Integration through Rural Development). The humanitarian response included coordination meetings with local administration such as the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), People’s Representative Institutions (PRI) representatives, and community stakeholders to ensure transparent identification of vulnerable families and effective relief planning.

Field teams conducted door-to-door rapid assessments in severely affected villages including Chinamamidipalli, Seetharampuram Scheduled Caste (SC) Colony, and ST (Scheduled Tribes) Colony areas. Community consultations were organized to understand urgent needs and prioritize support for elderly persons, women-headed households, and persons with disabilities, fishermen families, and daily wage laborers.

As part of the emergency intervention, affected families received 550 WaSH Kits, 550 Non-Food Item (NFI) Kits, and 2500 Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) of INR 4,500 through online transfer for each identified vulnerable family. The support helped families restore basic dignity, access hygiene materials, purchase emergency household needs, and recover from immediate cyclone impacts. The humanitarian intervention strengthened local coordination systems and demonstrated the importance of timely, community-centered emergency response mechanisms.



Photo 1: Coordination meeting with RDO, MRO, PRI representatives, and humanitarian stakeholders for planning emergency response activities.



Photo 2: Discussions with local administration and field teams on relief planning, WaSH Kits NFI Kits and UCT – Cash Transfer support, and beneficiary identification.



Photo 3: Community consultation and awareness meeting conducted with affected families and local volunteers.



Photo 4: Door-to-door household assessment conducted in Chinamamidipalli village to identify vulnerable cyclone-affected families eligible for emergency support.



Photo 5: Interaction with affected community members in Seetharamapuram ST Colony during field assessment and humanitarian outreach.



Photo 6: Assessment of damaged shelters and household conditions of affected families in Seetharamapuram.



Photo 7: Water stagnation and flooding in residential streets affecting mobility, sanitation, and household safety.



Photo 8: Community members and volunteers supporting emergency restoration efforts in flood-affected areas.

Beneficiary Voices

Mrs. K. Lakshmi (38), Mother and Daily Wage Worker, Seetharampuram SC Colony: “Flood water entered our house and damaged everything including food items, clothes, and bedding materials. The WaSH Kit and NFI Kit helped us restore hygiene and daily household activities. The unconditional cash support of INR 4,500 gave us immediate relief to purchase essential items for our children.”

Mr. M. Raju (45), Fisherman and Head of the Family, Narasapur Coastal Area:

“Our fishing equipment and household materials were badly affected due to heavy rains and floods. The emergency assessment team immediately visited our colony and coordinated with officials. The online cash transfer support and relief kits were very useful for our family during the crisis period.”

Mrs. P. Sarojini (52), Grandmother and Caregiver, Chinamamidipalli:

“We belong to a poor family living in a vulnerable area. During the cyclone we faced fear, water logging, and loss of household materials. The support from START NETWORK, IHH, and SNIRD brought hope and dignity to our family.”

The affected communities expressed heartfelt gratitude to START NETWORK for enabling a rapid and people-centered humanitarian response in vulnerable coastal communities. The collaborative support of India Humanitarian Hub (IHH) and SNIRD created a new era in localized humanitarian action through timely relief assistance, dignity-based support systems, and community participation.

The provision of WaSH Kits, NFI Kits, and Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) of INR 4,500 per family significantly contributed to restoring dignity, safety, and confidence among cyclone-affected households. The intervention stands as an example of how collaborative humanitarian partnerships can protect vulnerable communities and restore hope during times of disaster.