

ASHA FOR EDUCATION

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AMPHAN CYCLONE RELIEF NEWSLETTER



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GENERAL IMPACT AND STEPS MOVING FORWARD

Padmanava Sen, Director of Asha Central Projects Team, provides an overview of Asha's Amphan relief efforts:

What did Asha's support mainly concentrate on?

Asha's support is almost equally divided between urgent relief and short term rehabilitation efforts. Among relief items, dry rations have been distributed in almost all projects covering more than 5000 families. Apart from that, tarpaulin sheets for shelter, mosquito nets and hygiene/health kits are also distributed. Health camps have been arranged and in some cases, educational kits are distributed to students from very marginalized communities. A different approach than relief is taken towards rehabilitations. Asha for Education have been supporting village empowerment centers and educational centers with 8+ partners in southern west Bengal. These centers have played a key role to play in community mobilization, women empowerment, training youth and spreading awareness. Financial support has been provided to repair the damages on these centers. Also, in a remote village of Sundarbans, a flood relief center will be built that can be also used as a training and empowerment center.

Our liaison with the local government:

In the first week, many Government officials could not reach the devastated remote villages of Sundarbans. Our project partners have played a pivotal role in providing vital on- ground information to the Government and media. Partners have involved village bodies to organize distribution and also involved local police to avoid conflict during food or survival kits distribution. In specific areas, NREGA support has been sought to rebuild infrastructure in affected areas while food has been provided to workers involved in village rebuilding efforts through NREGA.

What challenges impacted relief and rehabilitation efforts?

The alert system and initial awareness about cyclone Amphan have reduced the loss of lives. The flood centers built after Cyclone Aila have also saved many lives. However, for relief efforts, it took multiple days to get the army involved. The focus was more on Kolkata while Sundarbans and east Midnapore lost any media and government attention after the first few days. The scale of destruction was beyond the capacity of any NGO. The lack of connectivity and destruction of Kolkata itself caused severe bottlenecks in relief efforts from the government side. Also, the food distribution deficiencies and broken supply chain due to COVID made the situation worse. Even after a month, the rice distribution is limited and without additional help, the families can not feed themselves fully. Some villages are still under water after 5-6 weeks and some islands are still not well connected to the mainland due to dysfunctional boat jetties.

Where is help needed in the long run?

After the initial relief and infrastructural rehabilitation, the long term need will be to restart the economy in the affected areas. Usually after such a disaster, two basic problems occur - mass migration for the loss of livelihood/house/farmland and women abuse/exploitation. Due to the COVID situation, the migration may be avoided. However, young girls need to be protected from being school drop out or victims of exploitation. To avoid future outbreaks, dewatering of ponds and creating clean water sources are also important. In the educational aspect, COVID and Amphan have caused big hurdles for Class 9 to 12 students. They may lose a year due to this level of disruptions. There should be community mobilization efforts to restart the rural economy and fill the gaps in government efforts to do the same. Local NGOs can be proactive to make sure food rations and all other government schemes are available to the needy while they build their own houses and rebuild their own villages. However, it usually takes more than a year to go back to normal after such a disaster. So long term rehabilitation primarily working with the Government is an absolute necessity.

OUR IMPACT

THE NUMBERS

245K USD DISBURSED

12 PROJECTS

15 CHAPTERS

OVER 330K USD RAISED

**275K FROM FACEBOOK
DONORS- OUR MOST
SUCCESSFUL FACEBOOK
FUNDRAISER TO DATE**

**15 CHAPTERS RAISING
FUNDS AND SUPPORTING
PROJECTS**

PROJECTS

Antyoday
BTS
CMS
Digambarpur Angikar
GDOHWA
Hijli Inspiration
Institute of Social Work
KMSWS
Mukti
Nishtha Jagaran
SWIRD
Sabuj Sangha

CHAPTERS

Atlanta
Austin
Bangalore
Berkeley
Boston
Cornell
Detroit
Hartford
Houston
London
Research Triangle Park
San Francisco
Seattle
Yale
Zurich

NISHTHA JAGARAN

SUPPORTED BY ASHA ATLANTA

[Nishtha Jagaran](#) is a women's organization operating in nearly 300 villages of the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal since the early 1970s. It focuses on the empowerment of women & considers education to be the best tool for empowerment.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, a rapid assessment was conducted by the organization - revealing that the immediate relief needs of the affected communities include provisions for food as well as mosquito nets. Mosquito nets are a top priority since most of the affected families have lost the roofs of houses and this is the season for dengue and other insect/vector borne diseases.

Planned Measures & Inputs:

1. Nutritional Supplement: 300 families have been provided food rations consisting of puffed rice, gram flour, sugar and cooking oil.
2. Shelter: 300 families were provided mosquito nets for protection from insect borne diseases.
3. Rehabilitation: The current plan is to rebuild the Nishtha training center by December 2020. A toilet block with 4 latrines and 4 bathrooms, three bedrooms, two latrines, and two kitchens for the watch and ward staffs will also be repaired.



HIJLI INSPIRATION

SUPPORTED BY ASHA ATLANTA

[Hijli INSPIRATION](#) was established in Kolkata West Bengal in 1996, formed by a group of IIT Kharagpur Alumni. The main objective of the organization is to carry out research / study / action oriented projects on socio-cultural, economic and environmental issues aimed at improving the quality of life of people, especially underserved demographics and communities, and promoting the eco-utilization and preservation of natural resources.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Hijli is providing dry food rations for 40 families, roughly 200 people, as well as providing tarps as temporary relief from the damage to the roofs of many homes. Over 50 houses were damaged in the Israel colony, along with some of the organization's community center.



MUKTI

SUPPORTED BY ASHA
BANGALORE & YALE

The charitable and socio-economic development trust [Mukti](#) was established in 2003. Their book bank project provides textbooks to students from Grade 5 and above who currently attend local government schools in Purbasridharpur region in West Bengal. What is particularly innovative about the book bank project is its self-sustainability. At the end of each academic year, the children return the textbooks they have been provided to Mukti. Those textbooks are then passed down to the next class.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Mukti is working towards supporting 1000 families with funds received from Asha. Relief efforts include emergency support materials such as tarps, food, and mosquito nets, books to support impacted students, stationary such as papers and pens, as well as repairs. Many of Mukti's support school centers were damaged by the cyclone. These have been supported by Asha for years, and we are now helping fund rebuilding efforts.



KANKURA MASAT SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY(KMSWS)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA LONDON

[KMSWS](#) is an NGO working in the district of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal in different areas including education of underprivileged children and employment generation for youth. KMSWS is a small non-governmental, nonprofit registered voluntary organization established in the year 1999. The aim of the society is the development and uplift of poor community members living in rural areas of Kankura Masat through a variety of development programs.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, KMSWS is providing immediate support to families without food in the region as well as temporary materials such as tarpaulins and mosquito nets to mitigate effects of home damage. The funds from Asha are going towards rations for 550 families, mosquito nets for 100 families, and safety kits for volunteers and school teachers supported by KMSWS. These kits include masks, gloves, and face shield for social distancing efforts against Covid-19.



SABUJ SANGHA

SUPPORTED BY ASHA ZURICH
& CORNELL

[Sabuj Sangha](#) is a non-profit, non-government development organization committed to improving the lives of people less fortunate in West Bengal. Their areas of support include:

- Health & Nutrition
- Education & Protection
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Livelihood & Women Empowerment
- Environment & Disaster Response

The organization also provides shelter, food, school supplies and uniforms for children in the area, prepares children for formal school and vocational education programs, provides medical support, and maintains a residential school.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Sabuj Sangha has identified 1000 affected families (500 families of their students and staff and 500 affected families from the general community) and is providing the following relief measures:

- Food kits, hygiene kits and shelter materials distributed to 500 affected families.
- 15 Medical camps for basic checkups & treatment of affected families by providing medicine & doctor consultation
- Housing repair support to 1000 families



ANTYODAY(KSSK)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA AUSTIN

[KSSK](#) is a free primary school in Paushi village in West Bengal, India, catering to children aged 4-12 from a local ashram, and poor families in surrounding villages. Asha Austin provides the fixed and recurring costs for the operation of the school.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Antyodaya is providing the following relief materials:

- Rooftop solar panels - for continuous electricity otherwise not available
- Grocery kits - containing rice, lentils, oil, spices, etc for 360 families
- Plumbing materials to reconstruct pipelines
- Repair of doors, windows, toilets, and roofs of damaged homes
- Hygiene kits - containing soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and water purification tablets for 250 families.
- Water Tank repair - for drinking water facilities.



BAIKUTHAPUR TARUN SANGHA (BTS)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA CORNELL

BTS was formed in 1983 In Baikunthapur, West Bengal. The school has adopted a curriculum that aims to inspire a creative and scientific temperament. The morning session consists of regular schooling and the afternoon session consists of the children being involved in activities like clay modeling, dance and drama, embroidery, etc. Each child is free to choose activities based on interest. Currently there are over 200 children in the school.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Asha for Education is supporting BTS in providing the following relief materials and supplies:

- Books, Bags, Uniforms/Clothing for 300 affected school children
- Ration/Survival Kits- containing rice, daal, potato, oil, Nutrela, spices, biscuits, sugar, salt, toothpaste, soap, and detergent for 300 families
- Mosquito Nets for 500 families
- Tarpaulins & Rope for 500 families



DIGAMBARPUR ANGIKAR (DA)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA CORNELL
& SAN FRANCISCO

[Digambarpur Angikar](#) was established in year 2000 in the Sundarban region of West Bengal to provide development initiatives for the empowerment of women and children and other vulnerable sections of socio-economically backwards/minority communities. Since inception, the organization has been involved in rural development and social action programs for establishing women and child rights, education, health and sanitation, livelihood development and environment conservation.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Asha for Education is supporting DA in providing the following relief materials and supplies:

- Food Kits for 200 families - containing rice, jaggery, daal, salt, soy beans, oil, potatoes, onions, spices, etc.
- Hygiene Kits for 200 families - containing soap and bleaching powder (for water sanitation)
- Shelter Supplies for 200 families - such as mosquito nets, tarps, and rope.



CHAMPA MAHILA SOCIETY (CMS)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA ATLANTA

[Champa Mahila Society](#) was established in 1984 in the Basanti area of Sunderban in West Bengal. Basanti is ecologically a part of the delta between the Hooghly River and the Bay of Bengal. Approximately 95% of the total population depends on agricultural activities for their livelihood in this monocrop area. The group aims to create a self-reliant community and develop a feeling of cooperation with a focus on women's groups. Right now they work in education, health, kitchen gardening and animal husbandry.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Asha for Education is supporting CMS in providing the following relief materials and supplies:

- Food Kits for 500 families - containing rice, lentils, oil, potatoes, onions, salt, spices, vegetables, etc.
- Food Kits for 800 babies - containing milk, sugar, biscuits, etc.
- Shelter Supplies for 500 families - such as mosquito nets, tarps, and rope.



SAMARTH (GDOHWA)

SUPPORTED BY ASHA AUSTIN

[Samarth](#) (formerly [GDOHWA](#)) was formed in the year 1986 in Orissa. Its goals include:

- Help children with physical deformities ascertain his/her rights.
- Help the children overcome discrimination and gain social support and respect.
- Provide education up to 5th standard, and training for various vocations, so that they become self employed and self dependent
- Raise awareness in the community about the utility of education and bring their participation in developing educational standard of the villages.
- Create opportunities for eligible children with disabilities to use their potential.

In response to Cyclone Amphan, Asha for Education is supporting Samarth in providing the following relief materials and supplies:

- Roofing replacement for the school and physiotherapy unit - serves 200 students and patients
- TV replacement - used by 160 students and children for education purposes



CONTACT US

ADDRESS FOR MAILING DONATIONS:

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San Francisco, CA
94139-8080

GET INVOLVED:

Contact your local [chapter](#) for information on meetings and fundraising events, or find out how to start a new chapter by emailing secretary@ashanet.org.

DONATE TO ASHA:

Make a tax-deductible donation online or send us a check by mail.

Donate stock. Please email treasury@ashanet.org for details. Double your donation if your company matches donations.

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<https://ashanet.org/amphan-relief-fundraiser-2020/>

AMPHAN FUNDRAISER PAGE

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