

Relief and Mobilization Effort in Narayanganj

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The town of Narayanganj is about 32 kilometers away from Dhaka. The Hunger Project staff and animators are working in the area providing flood relief. There are hundreds of houses in the slums along the river where the poorest of the people, mostly wage laborers live. These slums are currently under 1 to 8 feet of water. About 90% of the people in the area are affected and the slum dwellers are the hardest hit. Many are trapped within their houses and living on the roof under the open sky. Others have taken refuge in the nearby schools and buildings that have now become shelters. But in a rare show of solidarity, people have come together and trying to face this challenge collectively. The local THP animators mobilized immediately. Internalizing the Hunger Project's principles and knowing very well that is not a donor organization but puts its faith on people's abilities instead, the animators have not asked for relief assistance from the organization. Instead they are leading and coordinating relief efforts themselves, providing support to the people. There is a team of about 32 local animators who are working round the clock and the THP staff is there in support. They are working in the following areas, to name a few:



Relief picketing

1. **Relief Collection:** Their effort is creative and remarkable and includes the following:
 - a. Teams of animators and local youth are collecting money and relief materials from the surrounding areas by singing songs in teams, performing in the streets and local markets that are still operating.
 - b. The animators are mobilizing help from the local wealthy people. This includes a group of powerful people who seek public's support and approval and have offered material and monetary donations.
 - c. They have collected flour from people and have mobilized housewives to bake bread for the shelters
 - d. They have mobilized the local people and collected medicine. They have also used their help to set up Medical teams in the area.

- e. SpandanB and The Hunger project provide flat rice, Sugar cane, Salaine, Water purification tablets
- f. The animators are working with local organizations as well, coordinating relief efforts and activities.

2. **Relief Distribution:** The animators are taking the collected relief materials directly to the flood effected people. There they asked people themselves to distribute them. In a great show of unity and solidarity, people identified the neediest of the families and decided to distribute the materials to them first. They also made a secondary list of people who should receive aid from the next shipment. At the end of the night when it became impossible to continue, the people designated one place where they left the packets of undistributed oral saline and announced widely to people about it so that they can get them from this place when needed. This also helped them centralize critical information such as instructions on how to prepare saline solution, etc to ensure proper dissemination.



3. **Awareness building on safe water and sanitation:** The area is under 1 to 8 feet of water. The area is inundated not only by the polluted water from the sewer and garbage but also from the pollutants from the nearby oil tankers that are now under water. Animators are trying to alert people not to use this water under any circumstances, not even for washing dishes and clothes. Instead, they are gathering people to fetch water from a safe water source that is about 700 meters away. They collect water in clay water pots and deliver them regularly to the houses where people are trapped in and to the shelters. They are also trying to make arrangements for safe sanitation in the shelters as best as possible. One initiative includes separating areas for public toilets by digging a hole in an excluded area in the shelters. They have built 5 sanitary latrines so far. Animators are informing people about the urgency of sanitation practices.
4. **Showing solidarity and support:** Volunteers are going around in boats not only to people in shelters but also to people who are trapped within their houses and ensuring their safety. They are in constant touch with the people, talking to them, singing with them, boosting their morale and providing mental support.

Following is the relief support provided by SpandanB & The Hunger Project Bangladesh. (This is our distribution pan up to 20th August,07. By this time, distribution has complete one place on 11th August,07)

Shelter Area	Upazilla	# of families (avg of 7 people/family)	Saline Packets (per fam. 6 packets)	Water Purification Tablets (per fam. 10 tablets)	Flattened Dry Rice (Chira) (per fam. 1500 gm)	Sugar cane (per fam. 250gm.)	Candles	Bread (roti)
DND Embankment, Syedpur, Kasinathpur	Narayangan Sadar	200	1200 packets	2000 10 tablets	300 kg	75 kg.		
Bandar, Kolaghasia, Chunabaria, Dhamgor, Musapur	Bandar	200	1200	2000	300 kg	75 kg.		
Kodamtoli, Buhiya city, Shanarpar, Goadnail	Siddirgang	200	1200	2000	300kg	75 kg.		
Pirizpur, Barodi, Jampur	Sonargoan	200	1200	2000	300 kg	75 kg.		
Kayetpur, Murpara, Tarab, Palashdanga, Golakandha	Rupganj	200	1200	2000	300 kg	75 kg.	150 sticks	
Araihazar, Duptara	Araihazar	200	1200	2000	300kg	75 kg.		700 pieces

* Local collection : Bleaching Powder & Candle