Cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal on the afternoon of May 20, 2020 leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The plight of millions who have lost their homes has been made worse in a situation when the coronavirus epidemic is raging across the region. The devastation took away from people the safety of their homes, their meagre livelihood, and has exposed them to the fear of multiple illnesses which may be highly contagious.

SEEDS on the ground

A few glimpses of the ongoing work:

**Mobile health camp:** Medical bus with equipment, medicines and specialised doctors is moving from village to village to monitor the status of people's health, diagnose them and provide them with appropriate medicines. A total of 869 people have already been reached out to through this initiative across West Bengal

**Hygiene kit:** A total of 375 hygiene kits, containing basic hygiene supplies have been distributed. SEEDS by way of this distribution has reached out to the most severely impacted families

**Nutritional support kit:** The dual disaster of Amphan and Covid has rendered many people homeless and Jobless therefore leaving them unable to meet their basic family needs. Among these, SEEDS identified 300 families with pregnant and lactating women and distributed nutritional food items

**Safe drinking water supply:** With power lines down in many areas and pumps out of operation, drinking water became an urgent and critical need. SEEDS made its contribution to ensure safe drinking water supply including treatment of available water, decontamination of local water sources, and water filtration systems where needed. In this exercise 4 villages have been provided with safe drinking water

**Village hygiene:** Destructive cyclonic storm Amphan and heavy rain fall destroyed ecological balance in the impacted areas. Most of pond water got contaminated. Partner organisation’s volunteers in field therefore disinfected villages by spreading lime & bleach at different places such as road side, common & individual pond, market place, drinking water sources spots. A total of 15 villages have been disinfected

**Shelter Support:** Many people have been rendered homeless, hence requiring facilitation for interim accommodation. SEEDS has taken up and is engaged in restoration of 10 shelters
Immediate needs

**SEEDS aims to reach out to 1 lakh affected people**

- Safe Drinking Water Supply
- Ration, Hygiene & Family Utility Kits
- Shelter Support
- Medical Health Camps
- Village Hygiene and Cleaning Kit

Stories from the ground

“Cyclone Amphan entered the shores of West Bengal, leaving a trail of devastation.”

Agony, fear and pain was clearly visible on the face of Fifty-five-year-old Akash Das who belongs to Vetapukuria village, Deshapran block in East Medinipur district of West Bengal. He and his family with 13 members are now sharing space with the neighbours. Akash Das knows that this cannot continue for long.

Major worry for Akash Das after the devastation created by Amphan is to get a safe roof over his family’s head. A mud and brick house that was already in a dilapidated condition was further destroyed in Amphan. With the walls that collapsed and the roof that was blown away, the house and the members in it were dangerously exposed to the unpredictable weather. A temporary arrangement to secure the roof with a recycled Tarpaulin sheet is surely not very comforting hence his constant worry.

Akash Das waited for many days for the government officials to come and assess the damage. He went to the Gram Panchayat but they turned him down asking for something in return. Left with no choice, he took a loan and along with his sons is trying to fix the walls and the bamboo structure. Akash has been working on the house for past so many days and estimates that it will take him few more days to fix it in order to settle in.

An additional loan taken for construction and repairs has only added to his burden of initial loan taken due to covid-19, as in the last few months there has been no work for him and his sons in the brick kiln, leaving them with no option but taking loan to provide food for a large family.
With the efficient support of local administration, and volunteers on ground, SEEDS team managed to complete the distribution of 5659 dry ration and 5359 hygiene kits in Maharashtra. The major communities catered to were daily wage workers, families led by women, elderly, widow/widower led families and people with disability.

The spread of coronavirus world-wide has drawn huge demand and urgent requirement of personal protective equipment in large numbers for all those working in high risk environments such as the doctors & nurses, police personnel and others working in the field. SEEDS therefore made a sincere endeavour and collaborated towards a substantial contribution by supplying 1880 personal protective equipment kits including N-95 masks for the frontline health workers in the below mentioned hospitals in Gurgaon and Noida.

SEEDS needs your kind support for reaching out to 1 million persons in underprivileged communities across India

For more update check www.seedsindia.org/covid19/
SEEDS stands strongly with those in need in these difficult times!

“A poor man’s life is already difficult. This pandemic has only made it further miserable. I am aware how many of the labourers have died on their way back home due to starvation. It is heart-wrenching! Amidst so much of distress and pain, the help from SEEDS has come to me as a silver lining. In a grave situation like this, the most important worry of the head of the family is providing food for survival, and SEEDS came to my rescue at this juncture. I bless the team for providing me ration kit and saving my family that has small children from sleeping hungry. With my food containers filled with grains, I am relieved till it lasts and can in the meanwhile search for a job.”

- Vijay Pal, Gurugram, Haryana

REACHING OUT AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

More than 2 lakh lives touched across 11 states of India

1. 3.9 million meals distributed in ration
2. Over 21,000 families received essential hygiene kits
3. 4,730 PPE kits for frontline health workers to keep them safe

SEEDS COVID-19 HELPLINE IS NOW AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS GENERAL PUBLIC QUERIES

+91-9821746747
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM ALL 7 DAYS

www.seedsindia.org