

Report from SpaandanB Field Officer About Hunger Cyclone Relief Distribution

I visited in the cyclone area (Borgona sadar, Borguna) on 20th -22nd with The Hunger Project official for relief distribution program. I went to two locations with them.

1. Soto Labon gola
3 no. Word, 4 no. Block
6 no. Bururchar Union
Borguna Sadar, Borguna.
2. Chalata Toli/ Falsha Toli Bazar
9 no. M Balia Toli Union
Borguna Sadar, Borguna

We stayed in Potuakhali district in a local UNO office. The affected area visited by me is located near Paira River and about 30-35 km far away from Bay of Bengal. There are two ups and down in a day in the Paira River.

The village of 1st spot is divided the road made by Govt. 130 houses near river damaged fully and cattle, crops, boats lives were affected seriously. House materials likes wood, stick, tin etc were broken into pieces. All those houses have to be reconstructed. The houses located opposite side of the road were less damaged. 23 people died in that night and among them mostly were children and women.

On the other hand, the 2nd spot the Govt. road played no protection role to save the peoples' lives. Two villages here were severely affected by cyclone and overflow of water and the cyclone damaged houses, cattle, houses material, crops, shop keeper stock etc. severely and there is also no option to repair their houses but reconstruct again. There 18 people died and most of them were children and women.

According to the local people the cyclone was continuing for long but overflow of water came at 10.30 pm and within 10 minutes the flow of water become increased up to 10-14 feet high and continued about 30 minutes and again the water came back to the river and taken all with in the river. Some people took shelter on the road, some caught braches of the trees and some swam and found safe shelter.

Relief program from different Govt and NGO organizations in the visited locations was very much less than needed. Some local rich man cook rich and distributed the affected area.

I found it surprising that local people were working hard to rebuild their lives with strengths as if the cyclone has done little to decrease their courage. I felt that they have 0% expectation and some have less than 0% expectation from outside. They are eating once a day and sometimes going hungry. People were making their houses by the broken pieces of wood and tin and some were passing night under trees or some protection. If they came to know about relief, they made gathering and were spending whole day for

some rice or a single piece of cloth. Some children and aged man and women were very interested to pose for photograph.

The Hunger Project Relief Distribution: They distributed two items: 1600 Shari and Lungi and 6 bags of rice (50kg each bags) in three spots. One. Malek Khali Union given to the Hunger volunteers for distribution. and another two describe aboved. Local Hunger volunteers and local union parishad members made list of the affected area and The Hunger Project Dhaka office and local volunteers distributed.