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ECHO monitoring visit to Rabha & Garo Communities in North East



In response to the ethnic clashes of Rabha-Garo communities that broke out on both sides of the Assam-Meghalaya border during the New Year's Day, Caritas India together with the support of ECHO began its rehabilitation program in March 2011 to support 1905 affected families in 52 villages spread across 2 districts of Assam and Meghalaya.



As per the ECHO norms, a visit was planned from 29 June – 1 July, 2011 to the affected villages to assess the project implementation, strategies adopted and how communities are benefitting from it. The monitoring visit was carried out by Mr. Peter Burgess, Technical assistant and Mr. Talha Jamal, Project officer, Echo-Delhi. The team was accompanied by Ms. Babita Alick, Disaster Management, Caritas India, Mr. Jonas Lakra, Program Manager, Mr. Abdul Hasib, Project Officer and the partner based coordinators. The visit covered a total of 8 villages, of which 6 fall in Goalpara district and 2 villages in East Garo Hills.

The team visited each of the planned villages, meeting all the group communities and making 4-6 house visits to interact further with the individuals to gauge the relevance of the aid rendered. Since this was the interim period covering 3 months starting 15 March, 2011, the mission assessed and verified the accomplishment of activities done so far. A lot of interaction took place with the communities, program staff and other stakeholders on the budgeted activities. Beneficiaries were issued with a family card based on which they received cash for work, shelter and livelihood support. These activities essentially reduced the mobility and migration of the villagers in search of income. The communities appreciated the hard efforts of the facilitators/animators and even expressed how the program stabilized their turbulent lives to normalcy. The mission gave an overall positive overview of the program. Based on their assessment findings, the program has been instrumental in improving the living conditions of the affected families and restoring their lives back.

- Babita