



CYCLONE VARDAAH

**Caritas-CRS bags
START Fund for Response**

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Report by Lee Macqueen, Manager - Advocacy,
Edited by Amrit Sangma, PRCOM

On 12 December 2016, Tamil Nadu was gutted by a severe cyclonic storm Vardah, with wind speed up to 140 km per hour, making it the strongest storm to hit India since Cyclone Hudhud in 2014. Many homes – especially which were makeshift or poorly constructed were razed to the ground making them uninhabitable. Cut in water supply and access to food created conditions of compromised hygiene and health risks, particularly for adolescent girls and (pregnant and lactating) women.

Based on the rapid assessments report clubbed with information from the discussions at the State Inter Agency Group meetings – Caritas India and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) jointly raised an emergency alert to the UK based START Network (START fund) for short-term support to address the immediate and life-saving needs of the affected people.

With support from START fund, response has been prioritised in four wards in Chennai City Municipality and four blocks in Tiruvallur district- most affected areas with many marginalized households. These are also areas which have huge Dalit population, and significant fishing communities, who in normal times also dwell in precarious living conditions, as unorganised sector workers. This made Caritas India focus them, with women headed households, young children, elderly and persons with disabilities in its response strategy.

This is the second time in a row (after Bihar flood 2016), Caritas India was awarded the START Fund to the tune of GBP 59,948 (jointly with CRS this time).

1000 households will be supported with lifesaving supplies, under Shelter and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)



utilities.

Evaluated against the three criteria of Relevance, Effectiveness and Efficiency in the bidding, the START Fund grant has strongly enabled Caritas India's outreach to the worst affected families in this hour of crisis, intensifying the true Joy of Giving for Caritas family in sharing the grief and relief of the Vardah affected brothers, sisters and children.



Preparing humanitarian workers to develop strategic plan for ECO-DRR

Report by Simon Minj, Programme Officer – ECO DRR
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India



“Environmental degradation is a significant factor that reduces the adaptive capacity of societies to deal with disaster risk in many countries,” says World Risk Report 2012

In the recent decade's occurrence of natural disaster like earthquake, cyclones, floods and landslides had greatly increased. These disasters are not purely metrological and geographical in nature but also due to inappropriate use of our ecosystem and rapid urbanization.

Ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (ECO-DRR) project was launched by Caritas India in 2015 in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Uttarakhand (UK) and Himachal Pradesh (HP) to strengthen natural infrastructure and human resilience against hazard impacts. These states are prone to natural disasters in the recent past.

Recently, seven partners from UP, UK and HP were capacitated on development of strategic plan of ECO-DRR on December 13-16, December

2016.

Technical – DRR, Mr. Anjan Bag of Caritas India facilitated the participants on development of strategic plan on three aspects of natural stock, community preparedness and livelihood based on their thematic areas. Participants amended their statements based on the input provided.

Participants were also explained on the quality reporting and documentation aspect of the programme. The narrative reporting and its requirement/expectation were shared with the coordinators to enhance the quality of reports.

The training followed by the review meeting of the programme to monitor and evaluate the progress in the respective regions. Quality inputs were given to the partners on their

report based on the output indicators against each outcome. The partners made necessary amendment in their MIS, LFA, Narrative report and PDRA analysis.

Inclusion of qualitative and quantitative data in the report was stressed by Ms. Hardeep, Programme Office, Caritas India during her session on PME guideline of Caritas India. She explained the reporting requirements of situational analysis, progress reporting and case study with the partners.

Every partner presented their Detail Implementation Plan for the next three months of their respective region. Necessary feedback was also taken from the partners for the proper implementation of the programme.



Caritas meets Union Tribal Affairs Minister over PESA

Report by Alexander Kerketta, Thematic Manager –Tribal Development

On 16 December 2016 a delegation comprising of Caritas India and Adhunik India met with Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Jual Oram and briefed him about the far reaching Tribal Development work of Caritas through its partners in the states of Eastern India- namely Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and West Bengal where Tribal Population is commendable. PESA (Panchayat Extension of Scheduled areas) is one of the major acts of the government that has provision for ensuring the rights and entitlements of the tribals habiting forest lands and those dwelling in the peripheries of forest areas.

Caritas India is an organization which has more than five decades of intervention support in India, addressing mainly disaster related humanitarian services. However tribal development also continue to be a priority area of the organization for addressing the issues of poverty among the less privileged tribal population in the rural hinterland. In speaking about the contemporary Tribal development concerns in the region- which is multifaceted, the Union Minister for Tribal affairs acknowledged that these issues need attention and he is committed to support organizations working to complement and enhance government's interventions and reach in the tribal areas.

The minister suggested to the delegation meeting him at his residence in New Delhi that tribals issues have to be thematically addressed and for this the organization should organize regional, national and international conferences where research findings, and impacts and outcomes of the project interventions could be shared to

the larger audience and other stakeholders. The Minister in his capacity would provide authentic reports (facts and figures) on government's action taken, policy interventions and provides suggestion for improving the conditions of Tribal people.

Caritas having worked on PESA implementation to ensure the rights and entitlements of the Tribal people in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand through project Hamara Haq, Gaon Nirman and Swadhikar has incredible success case stories where governance and interface between the people's representative and administration has been strengthened immensely. Forest rights have been ensured and timely allocation of land rights have empowered the tribal communities to use forest resources thereby augmenting their economic earnings vis-à-vis ensuring community participation in establishing strong community mechanism for forest resource management and sustainable natural resource orientation.

Taking lead from the Ministers encouraging advisory note during this meeting, Caritas India is planning to hold series of state, regional, national or international level conferences to share the project learning outcome with local, national and international community, advocating for larger tribal developmental strategies in addressing the rights and entitlements.

Creating awareness and understanding about the issues of tribal people is a must for government as well as civil society organization and in doing so Caritas India would seek alliances and partnerships with organizations, funding agencies, corporate and the government.