

## “The Genesis of Relief and Rebuilding Project 2016”

In order to explore the field situation in the project area and listen to victim families, the trained out community animators of IEA were oriented to visit families in the project area and find out their ongoing living condition. Consequently, the IEA animators surveyed the victim villages.

In receipt of the field report from the village animators, the program facilitator and the program manager organized Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in each priority village, concerning the present crisis of the worst affected victim families in the village. As an outcome of the FGD discourse, the IEA Program Coordinators and Facilitators recommended the name of the household(s) to IEA to enroll beneficiaries of project to avail equitable benefit sharing of the project intent. This decision was unanimously welcomed by the Project Implementing Agency.

At this juncture, IEA expressed its fundamental concern to the beneficiaries, regarding the time-lined available budget for the project activities. To start with, IEA encouraged beneficiaries to begin and accomplish the work with the sanctioned fund available in the Relief and Rebuilding phase. Further IEA assured beneficiaries to release phase wise provision of budget to complete the work, needed for the unit cost, the resources is judiciously utilized towards completion.

In line with the IEA suggestion, the beneficiary families came out with their grievances to complete the houses at a stretch, thereby they will not be affected by the torrential rain and suffer on the open sky. Hence, the beneficiaries prayed before IEA to help them to complete the houses within possible shortest period which will protect their family lives and they will ease out of prolonged problem of homelessness.

Thus, abiding with the request made by the beneficiary families, the time bound activities under current project were being implemented in war-footing manner. The fund sanctioned and released against approved budget for building and renovating houses for victim families was a priority and need of the hour. Accordingly, the selected houses for specific beneficiary families have been considered. In relates to this situation, 9 (Nine) Nos. of new buildings have been erected and the Extension work of 3 (Three) Nos. of houses with repair and renovation of the same has been accomplished.

The construction work of 2 New Houses in Balliguda Block, 3 new houses in Dambuli, K. Nuagaon Block and 3 new houses in Gotapanga, K. Nuagaon Block & 1 New House in Gudrigam, Tikabali Block have been constructed and finished. Work of 3 dilapidated houses i.e. 1 house in Balliguda, 2 houses in Dambuli is also repaired and extended.

The adequate project provision for victim families under “*Rebuilding and Construction of Victims Houses-2016*” have been released which had been helpful to the beneficiaries and provided a huge relief for the victim families for their protected stay and day-to-day living. India Evangelistic Association has been able to construct 9 fully and 3 partially damaged houses for 12 families respectively out of the support received from Resource Agencies. The constructed building has been dedicated and finally handed over to the following beneficiaries

during the project period January 2016 - January 2017. The housing project has reached its target on the provisioning allocated to beneficiaries so that they settle to their place of origin.

Sl. No.	Name of the Beneficiary	Address	Partial/Full
1.	Bijay Digal	Balliguda	Full
2.	Sabitri Bhuyan	Sunapanga, Balliguda	Partial
3.	Sudarshan Baliarsingh	Nua Sahi, Balliguda	Full
4.	Jikhariya Digal	Dambuli, K. Nuagam	Full
5.	Minaketan Digal	Dambuli, K. Nuagam	Full
6.	Prakasan Digal	Dambuli, K. Nuagam	Full
7.	Suresan Digal	Dambuli, K. Nuagam	Partial
8.	Pasintra Digal	Dambuli, K. Nuagam	Partial
9.	Isak Digal	Gotapanga, K. Nuagam	Full
10.	Sameer Digal	Gotapanga, K. Nuagam	Full
11.	Rahul Digal	Gotapanga, K. Nuagam	Full
12.	Ranjit Naik	Gudrigam, Tikahani	Full

Beneficiaries were selected as per the Vulnerability criteria and the remoteness of the area. The beneficiary families are now saved from the rains and scorching summers. They are thankful for the wonderful gift which they have received. They recollect the days after the riots. Houses were completely vandalized and no financial support from any sources. Some of the beneficiaries were found staying under tarpaulin and wood shed. IEA reached out to them out of compassion and reality and discovered their miserable situation and help was mobilized with gracious funding from various sources.

Drawing reference to the start of the Project Implementation, 12 households victim families were selected on priority basis, corresponding to the criterion (Victim card holder, Homestead plot of legal land owned by the claimant (member of the victim family), a court affidavit/declaration note from the sufferer requesting India Evangelistic Association (PIA) to become beneficiary for this Relief and Rehabilitation Project. Soon after beneficiary families got selected and when legal formalities were found well befitting, the phase wise required material support has been released to the victim families to build up their new houses, standing in the total plinth area i.e. 300 sq. feet in stipulated time and places.

In Phase 1, boulder stones for foundation, Sand, Cement and Metal Stones have been provided to the beneficiaries to erect foundation. In addition, labour cost needed for construction work has also been rendered to the beneficiary families.

In Phase 2, the same required materials (Ash Fly and Clay Burnt Bricks, Sand, Cement, Stone Chips) have been supplied to the recipient and the beneficiaries have timely used it.

In Phase 3, required number of Wooden Rafters for Asbestos Sheet Support, Ply Wood for Door with chowkatha for Door and Windows Frame, Asbestos Sheets, Pipes for Asbestos Support and Allied Accessories like Lime and Colour has been provided to the recipient families. By this time, total 12 nos. of houses i.e. New, Repaired and Extended have been completed with well cemented floor and victim family members are dwelling in right now.

The beneficiary families are now found comfortable in their new houses, as these houses are made of bricks and cement floors and walls are plastered with cement and roofs are also made of AC Sheets, which are now safe from all bad weather throughout the year. Those beneficiaries, who lived before in mud, Tarpaulin and dilapidated houses are delighted to live in asbestos roof and concrete wall and floor modern house for the first time. Hence, the family members of the beneficiaries are now staying in safest way in these new buildings.

The room provision and its space specification are decent enough for a family of 5 to dwell in. Quality materials have been supplied and these families enjoy their houses with much gaiety, in terms of its quality and durability. Our Commitment was to dedicate the Rebuilding Project to Victim-Driven House Construction where the Victim Families Construct the Houses on their Own. Nonetheless, Partial Labour and Mason Expenses were provided to some beneficiaries who could not bear the costs. The Houses were constructed in a war footing scale though availability of Labour has been a persistent problem in remote areas.

Crucially, these houses assure beneficiaries to fix a separate outside fireplace and cooking provision, so as to protect house members from inhalation of firewood smoke and dung, which was not seen in their traditional mud houses.

Additionally, these new buildings have a protective provisions for domestic animals, adjacent to the houses, consequently, domestic sanitation and lawning rooms are not affected by the dung smell of the livestock, nearby. These houses have also attached to domestic sewerage drains, running directly to the soak-pits, in the backyard kitchen garden area. These system and practice of family members has brought great relief in their physical life and survival in long run.

The living conditions of the beneficiaries have improved significantly. Unprotected and unsafe dwelling exposes an individual to various hazards and risks. Beneficiaries who stay in the remote pockets of forests are more exposed to dangers such as attack from animals such as Jackals and Fox. Infants carry more susceptibility to diseases and infections if they are kept to vulnerable conditions owing to more health related expenses. Unhygienic conditions make the adults even more prone to ill-health situations which add more suffering to meet financial expenses for time-bound treatment and cure.

Having a home increases confidence and provides a solid point of departure for the restarting of livelihood activities. The home enables the resettled family to plan their future activities and commitments. A permanent house also creates status within the community that may enhance the family's opportunities to participate fully in the local social environment. The beneficiaries typically display both optimism and hope for a better future.

Thus, now these beneficiary families enjoy staying in healthiest dwellings which has been constructed by the project provision and dedicated to these victim families at the end.

### Challenges:-

While implementing the project activities, IEA has come across the emerging challenges to address those crucial issues, pertaining to the cost of the itemized approved budget. It is humble reminder for the donors that the sanctioned budget for earmark activities in the project seems practically challenging for the organization to address the field need. Here, it would be quite transparent to share about the ground reality that, the envisaged budget, prepared and submitted by IEA to the donor to carry out the present activities was befitting to reimburse after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment is received. Apparently, at the same time IEA experienced that, more we delay to buy the house construction materials during the season, there is possibility of price hike up to 20% to 30% of the same materials after couple of months.

So, IEA has risked completing these houses at a stretch in the same season and providing beneficiary families a safe roof and house during rainy season from its General Funds. We had to complete the houses, despite sufficient sanctioned budget was not available as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment yet to be received by the Project Implementing Agency. Hence, an extra expense total worth of Rs. 2,00,205.00 (2,006 Euros) has been spent in this regarding in between Jan to June 2016, with an expectation that the donor agency would graciously consider such emergence action for the larger interest of the beneficiary in the project area.

Construction was disrupted due to Monsoon rains. In addition, the remoteness and low population density of the victim areas kept the target victim beneficiaries in isolation and made the supply chain and logistics difficult. In certain situations the Tractor and Truck owners were reluctant to carry materials to such areas. It also compounded stress of working under difficult conditions. Lack of skilled Masons and Labours led to still more delays found to be difficult to manage. The difficulties of operating in a post-riot social and religious context are even too high. Other people in the same community might not tolerate this process of Humanitarian work intended for the victim beneficiaries that makes them more anxious in their inter-personal community relationship with their neighbours. Achieving results in remote and difficult areas in a post-disaster context always translates into time-intensive project management. We managed to lead this Rebuilding Project on Victims Ownership to construct and manage their own house construction. However, some beneficiaries even after receiving the resources still struggle to pay the Labour and Mason Costs. In some cases, though Houses have been constructed to the roof level and asbestos provided but lack of timely expenses in engaging labour have been a challenging task for the beneficiaries.

Well provisioning in the project component for construction of these houses has been found very cooperative in the process. But, since the beneficiary families belonging to very remote areas away from towns, virtually available of traditional masons in these areas were even not present. So, it was challenge for the project to locate good masons to construct the buildings in this area. Secondly the town base masons were reluctant to

deliver their technical service in these remote villages. But the priority demand for this bare need for masons was further tough aspect for the Project Implementing Agency (PIA). Nonetheless, the implementation of this project prayerfully began with good start on time and got completed before project dead line. No discrepancy in implementing the project activities was witnessed and every action has been implemented in the project goes in line with the described project proposal.

Social and Spiritual Life of Beneficiaries: - The free house provision for the people in distress has brought a ray of hope in their dimming life only because of God who loves them and that they know and rely on His grace. The only love of God they had heard about and now they are experiencing in their own lives, which is a life time memory for them to speak and witness the God's love before neighbours. The lives of the victims surviving almost without proper shelter had inclined their hopes to melancholy state. Having received the houses was a blessing open wide for them and rekindled their hopes, desires, aspiration and beliefs in the Lord Almighty. Their grief is unspeakable when they are kept away from housing benefits by the Government. They have always waited upon the Lord but a house getting complete was a miracle for them. They say house is the prime need for victims due to which some have fled to far off areas and the Victim Community appears displaced. With a house to dwell in they have confidence to think about future. They speak with joy that it is only God who can provide a secure future. After falling prey to false hopes and big talks from elsewhere, it is their faith which has ultimately played down its role. Hence they say that the Lord our Provider is the only hope on whom we have rested out entire life. We trust no human being how big he may be. It is the Lord who is our Banner has rescued and secured us with Relief and Rehabilitation program. They thank God who has provided IEA as a Blessing.

During the journey of these houses entering completion and beneficiary families realize the reality of their erected houses and by the time they dwell in it, these families, give thanks to God and the donor agency with a joyous mood that, how God loves them during the time of their crisis and God provided them such beautiful houses through their children (Officers working in the Donor Agency and IEA)

They thank God for such gift from the donor agency and now they will be able to live in safer houses after it gets finished. After seeing such spacious rooms in the newly built houses, the family members are worshipping and sitting in daily devotion prayer by rejoicing with Lord. They are ever grateful for God's love for these families during the time of calamities.

Please pray for more victim families, who also still remain homeless in their localities and no sufficient available provision from any viable quarter has been reached to them to plan and construct shelter for their dwelling.

Please pray as hundreds such families stand in deplorable condition. They are desperately seeking help and protection through Rebuilding Program.