Volume 1 | Issue 1 | Responding to Amphan

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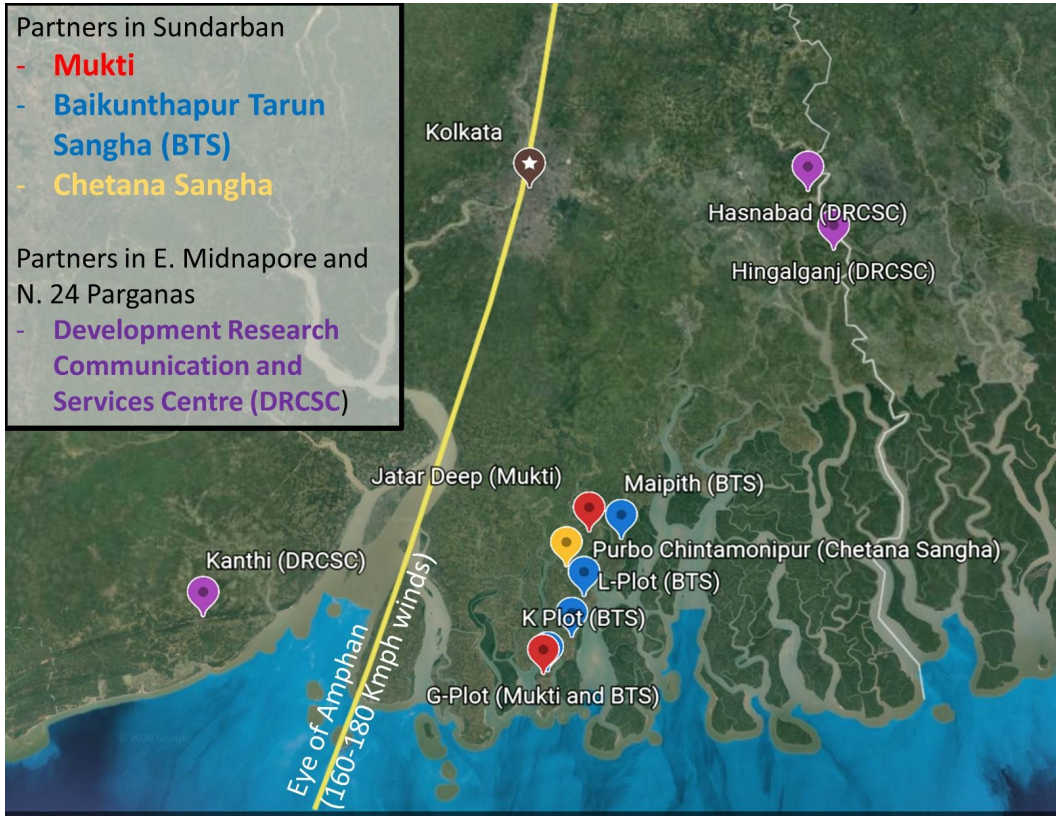

INTRODUCTION

Super Cyclone Amphan tore through coastal West Bengal and Odisha on 20th May, 2020 destroying homes, fields, lives and livelihoods..

AID and its grassroots partners responded immediately with food, water, tarpaulin and other essentials. Our partners have been supporting repairing of breached embankments, dewatering of salinated ponds and helping farmers rejuvenate agriculture.

A look at some of these efforts.

Overview Video: https://youtu.be/voVKK3WDdZs

WEST BENGAL
28TH MAY, 2020

Association for India's Development

DAMAGE BY CYCLONE AMPHAN

Affected 60 Million

Evacuated 813 Thousand

In Relief Camps 200 Thousand

87 Deaths

1 Million Dwellings damaged

1231 water pipelines damaged out of 1746

450 Thousand Electric Poles damaged

100 miles of river embankments breached

YOU CAN HELP US IN RELIEF, RECOVERY AND REBUILDING OF AFFECTED AREAS

DONATE NOW

AIDINDIA.ORG/RESPONDING-TO-AMPHAN
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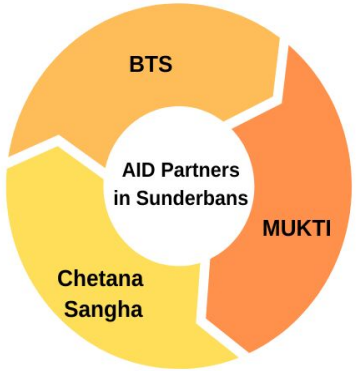
OUR IMPACT IN SUNDERBANS

1000 families
Food for Work rebuilding embankments



250 ponds
desalinated

9000 families
got relief support

650 acres
reclaim salinated land with Dhainche seeds

1600 families
got vegetable seed support

DIRECT SUPPORT: 13,300 FAMILIES

DESALINATION OF PONDS

The storm surge from the cyclone resulted in the contamination of fresh water ponds with sea water. Pond water is used for agriculture, fishery and household use.

Our partners are using rented diesel pumps to pump out saline water. Monsoon rains will soon fill the ponds with fresh water.

Our partners have desalinated around 250 ponds that support 1500 families.

SEED DISTRIBUTION FOR FOOD SECURITY

Extreme weather events driven by human-induced climate change continue to devastate agriculture, farmers' livelihoods and global food security. This year, the combination of Cyclone Amphan and the COVID-19 pandemic threaten an imminent and serious food crisis in the Sunderbans. However, due to the network of over 25,000 farmers in the region that AID has developed over the last 11 years, these communities are better prepared to deal with these crises.

A number of farmers were unable to harvest and sell their crop due to the double whammy of the lockdown and Cyclone Amphan. Drawing on their experience from Cyclone Aila in 2009, our partners are energizing the farmers to rejuvenate agriculture. Chetana Sangha, distributed vegetable seed packets to >1500 families and trained a small number of farmers on sustainable, organic methods.

RECLAIMING SALINATED LANDS FOR AGRICULTURE

Amphan breached the embankments, flooding farms with saline seawater that makes agriculture difficult. This could be disastrous since the main livelihood here is agriculture.

Drawing on the collective experience we gained in the last decade, AID is helping farmers to reclaim and rejuvenate the soil. Women self help groups working with Mukti, are planting Dhainche (Sesbania) nitrogen-fixing plants in the lead up to sowing paddy in about a month.

Video Link: https://youtu.be/SJDtMjOaMMU

FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM - SUPPORTING EMBANKMENT/ COASTAL REPAIRS

Rebuilding and reinforcing embankments is an immediate need to stop more ingress of saline water.

AID partners collaborated with the Panchayats to support 5000 people working on repairing embankments. While the Panchayats paid wages to the workers under MGNREGA, our partners supported them with food such as rice, pulses, potatoes, onions and soybean.

UPCOMING AID EVENT: PICTAR ART CONTEST

Are you a young artist, wishing to express your concern about climate change and global pandemics through your art? Then PICTAR – Planet In Crisis, The Artist Rises - may just be the platform you are looking for. PICTAR is a worldwide online art contest with the goal of putting the spotlight on these dual catastrophes. Artists worldwide (5 to 17 years) are invited to participate with a chance to win fabulous prizes and global recognition of their artwork. All proceeds from this competition will support AID's relief efforts towards recovery and rehabilitation of COVID-19 and cyclone impacted communities. Thanks are due to our awesome judges (Anuradha Thakur, Shyamal Mukherjee, Vishal Wadaye) for making PICTAR extra special!

We truly hope that you, our young friends will raise your brush, raise your voice and let your art speak. As Greta Thunberg's speeches say "No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference" and yes, you are not too small (read young) to make a difference!

Promo Video: https://youtu.be/q28dgHckYyo

UPCOMING AID EVENT: TRIVIA NIGHT

FREE EVENT hosted by the one and only Ben Banyas in order to raise awareness of relief efforts following Cyclone Amphan in India.

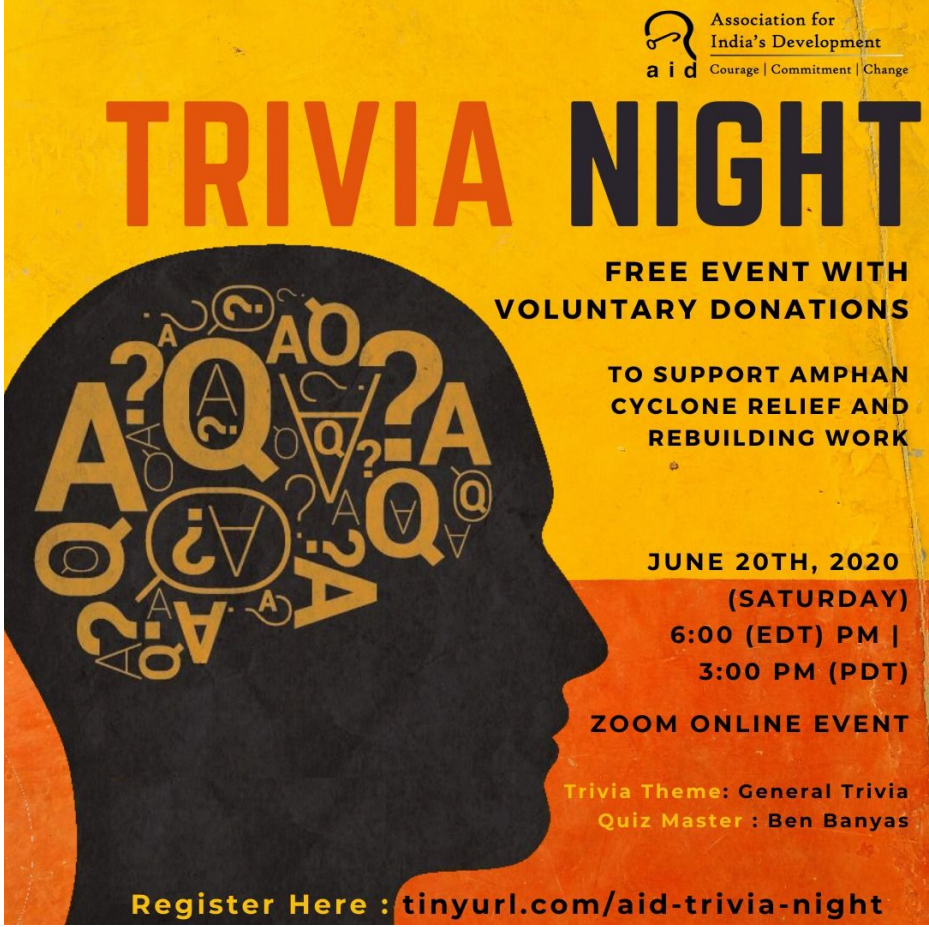
Make a team or participate individually. Newcomers and long-time trivia enthusiasts all welcome! Hope to see you there!

When : June 20, 2020 (Saturday)
Time : 6:00 - 7:30 pm (EDT) | 3:00 - 4:30 pm (PDT)
Register Online : http://www.tinyurl.com/aid-trivia-night

Join Zoom call: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82122944252

Donate Generously!

Facebook Event:
https://www.facebook.com/events/265823421305348



Promo Video: https://youtu.be/mrOX71fknD4

LONG TERM STRATEGY TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENCE

1) Restore mangroves around the islands and trees on the islands.
2) Enhance food security with increased access to saline tolerant seed varieties, sustainable practices and marketing of organic produce.
3) Community based development of home structures that are more resilient.
4) Helping people (re)start small businesses with interest-free loans.

CONCLUSION

Your generous contribution provides relief to survivors of Cyclone Amphan and lends a helping hand to the affected communities as they rebuild their lives. Association for India's Development (AID) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our federal tax-ID is 04-3652609. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for your contribution and for making a significant difference to those impacted by Cyclone Amphan while also dealing with the global COVID pandemic.

Learn more: https://aidindia.org/responding-to-amphan
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