

BIHAR FLOOD DISASTER

Diary of Events as NIEA Responds

DAY 17

3-September

NIEA has procured supplies for 500 relief packets. Each packet contains enough to feed and support a family of eight for a week at least.

A relief camp site has been defined and construction of the first unit to house 75 people is complete.

A medical team cared for 178 patients through the Mobile Medical Unit service

Government and UNICEF officials recorded appreciation for NIEA's service

65 evacuees have reached the make-shift relief camp and were given dinner tonight. Many more will come in tomorrow onwards. Their stories are heart rending. Pregnant women are many. Children are sick and tired. A high level of stress is evident on all who have come. These have been difficult days.

- *Pray for tomorrow's medical outreach*
- *Pray for the packing and re-packing of the 50 pound relief packet which will be readied tomorrow onwards.*



DAY 18

4-September

Medical team visited flood affected areas today as well. Almost 150 patients were treated including women and children.

There are nearly 150 evacuees at the NIEA make-shift relief camp on the ministry campus. Children have been separated from parents. Pregnant women nearing term are in the camp. Small children with glazed eyes sit listlessly.

NIEA's orphan and hostel children perform music and drama for the children of the camp. Everyone seems to be released momentarily from the pain that has engulfed them.

In discussion with common folk, hundreds of animals have been lost. Thousands of lives. The question of the next step is in front of all.

AT the new relief camp – unit 1 is complete. Plans for 3 more units is finalized. Cooking will start tomorrow at this new location.

Pictures from Katihar suggest that thousands are marooned in Katihar as well.

- *Pray for the medical needs of all in the make-shift camp as well as pregnant women.*
- *Pray for quick coordination to get the packets ready and rolling.*



DAY 19

5-September

The relief packets are being packed. By noon today we will be in a position to start sending out relief packets worth US\$ 30 each. In them are twenty items ranging from food, household vessels, personal hygiene articles etc.

205 people are registered at the NIEA Relief Camp. Of these 72 are children, 17 are infants, and there are a total of 10 pregnant ladies most of them in late months of pregnancy.

The medical team examined and treated all sick at the make-shift refugee camp today and provided medical aid for all pregnant women. The work towards the establishment of the permanent Relief Camp is almost complete with the kitchen and two housing units ready for use. Toilets are in place, 3 hand pumps are down with two more to be inserted tomorrow. This evening all 205 plus those who come to us today will move there. A new tent to assist in the storage, packing and dispatching of materials is being set up.



- *Pray for the teams as they coordinate multiple efforts on three levels. Pray for stamina, wisdom and spiritual grace as each carries out their heavy responsibilities in the wake of this urgent need.*
- *Pray as more medical supplies are on the way, that they reach here on time so that the work will continue unhindered.*

DAY 20

6-September



The medical team traveled to one of the largest refugee camps around 40 km from Purnia towards Madhepura. About 14,000 plus men, women and children make up the camp today. An epidemic of diarrhoea has broken out.

Today's paper says that 32 children have died due to diarrhoea. At a medical camp we saw a small 1 yr old girl whose entire palm (lt) has burned due to her dipping it into a pan of hot oil that her mom was cooking with. We have brought the entire family to Purnia for further treatment. The small girl will die if medical treatment is not made available.



235 refugees have been shifted to our new Agape Village – on the outskirts of the town where they will be treated and looked after. 3 housing units are up and completed. People are grateful for new housing and for hot food and clean water.

- *Pray for a group of pregnant women from Araria District who are being brought to Purnia for treatment and for further care. We will take care of them.*
- *Pray for additional units for housing and more manpower to take care of the sick and suffering in other Relief camps. There is a lot of work left to do!*