



Cyclone Michaung Flood Relief Andhra Pradesh **Report**

The Healing Touch!



About Sewa Europe

Sewa is a unique concept of Service – Selfless Efforts for Welfare of All. Sewa, involves performing an act of kindness without expectation of reward. Sewa Europe is based on the core belief of SEWA - to sacrifice your time and resources for the benefit of others without expectation of anything in return. Sewa Europe is a humanitarian organization which aims at driving transformational change through diverse developmental programs focusing on Health and wellbeing.

Andhra Pradesh State

Andhra Pradesh is a state in the southern coastal region of India. It is the seventh-largest state with an area of 162,970 km² (62,920 sq mi) and the tenth-most populous state with 49,577,103 inhabitants.



Program Locations:

- Guntur district: Gram Location
- Srikakulam district

The Crisis:

Cyclone Michaung intensified in the first week of December and made landfall on the beach town of Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, India on December 5, causing torrential rainfall and floods and resulting in large scale devastation.

Acres of crops, public property and infrastructure was damaged and inundated causing estimated economic losses of around 12,000 - 15000 crore INR. The crisis has claimed 5 lives in the state and over 10,000 people are reported to have been moved to 125 relief camps.

The lives of approximately 40 lakhs people have been impacted.

Response by Sewa Europe:

As the disturbing visuals of the disaster streamed in, it gave a glimpse of an overwhelming crisis. As loss of lives and widespread destruction, damage and distress of the population was reported, there needed to be a response as the suffering of the affected people had only just begun and the crisis needed to be contained before further escalation

To arrange the relief response donor support is indispensable in the first place. Sewa Europe expresses its gratitude for the donor support received which presented the opportunity for action. The relief activities needed to be planned at a short notice and at the same time risks to ground personnel needed to be weighed in, particularly in an active and precarious disaster zone.

In this situation Sewa Europe's ground network team rose to the occasion and took up the responsibility of covering the affected areas and carrying out the planned Ration Kit distribution relief drive. The ground team were aware of the risks yet were eager to be part of the relief response.

The situation on the ground constituted a major human crisis with loss of lives, livestock, standing crops, people trapped and stranded without means and facing loss of their homes, livelihoods and struggling for food and other basic needs for survival.

Sewa Europe through invaluable donor support responded to the need of the hour and carried out different relief activities.

Relief Activities:

Ration Kit Distribution Camps

Even as the flood situation continued to remain critical and the state was on high disaster alert, the efforts were to contain the human crisis through focusing on the relief camps and reaching the much needed relief support to the most affected and displaced population.

As electricity and transport services had been damaged the supply of essential daily items had been badly hit as well. People were facing loss of their homes, their livelihoods and struggling to even arrange food and other basic needs for survival.

Ration Kit distribution was among the top priority for the affected population.

Thus Ration Kit Distribution Camps were especially conducted by Sewa's ground network team in coordination with the local authorities, community leaders and volunteers.

Ration Kits were distributed to the target family beneficiaries as an immediate relief measure and consisted of essential items like rice, flour, pulses, cooking oil, salt, spices, sugar, etc.

The ration package was prepared towards meeting the minimum daily calorie intake, protein, vitamins and other nutritional requirements and a balanced diet for the families in the difficult time and ensure that their immunity level remains stable and does not make them susceptible to illness or disease. The ration items were duly supervised for quality.

The quantity of ration items was meant to last for a period of 3 to 4 weeks for a family of 4 to 5 members.

800 Ration Kits were distributed covering a beneficiary base of over 4000 people.

Ration Kit Distribution Camps				
S.No	Village Name	Mandalam/Tehsil	District	No. Of Kits
1	Ramachandra Puram	Bapatla	Guntur	150
2	Chinna Koviripeta	Polaki	Srikakulam	67
3	Guppadipeta	Polaki	Srikakulam	82
4	Raja Ram Puram	Polaki	Srikakulam	55
5	Ramakrishna Puram	Jalumuru	Srikakulam	65
6	Nadagam	Narasannapeta	Srikakulam	83
7	Saravakota	Saravakota	Srikakulam	60
8	Gullavanipeta	Polaki	Srikakulam	60
9	Dandulakshmipuram	Polaki	Srikakulam	57
10	Tonangipeta	Polaki	Srikakulam	24
11	Nandigam	Polaki	Srikakulam	23
12	Jogampeta	Polaki	Srikakulam	21
13	Kalingapatnam	Gaara	Srikakulam	28
14	Boddam	Polaki	Srikakulam	25
			Total	800

Ration Kit item details		
S. No.	ITEM NAME	QUANTITY
1	RICE	10 KGS
2	TOOR DAL	1 KG
3	OIL	1LT
4	RED CHILLI POWDER	250Gms
5	SUGAR	1 Kg
6	SUJI RAWA	1 KG
7	TAMARIND	250Gms
8	SALT PACKET	1 KG
9	ATTA	1 KG
10	ONIONS	1 KG
11	SMALL PACKET OF MIXED TADKA	1 Packet
Total Kits Distributed - 800		

Challenges faced:

Sewa's program team faced a number of challenges :

- The primary challenge faced was the flood situation which had caused large scale physical destruction including damaged roads, bridges, fallen trees and debris thus it posed a serious challenge in reaching the target areas.
- The adverse weather was a consistent hindering factor which even brought up concerns for personal safety of the ground team members.
- Network and communication services were down and transport services and electricity supply had been affected.
- The distress of the affected people was overwhelming as they were undergoing various trauma and losses and were desperately looking out for support and reassurance and thus required to be calmed and counseled accordingly.

The ground team through courage and patience overcame the various challenges towards the successful implementation of the program.

Project Outcomes:

HIGHLIGHTS



14 Villages covered in
2 districts of Guntur
and Srikakulam



800
Ration Kits
Distributed



4000 plus
beneficiaries

The program contributed to Social Development Goals –

1. No Poverty,
2. Zero Hunger and
3. Good Health and Well-being.

The implementation contributed to the following short and long term outcomes.

- Ration Kit Distribution served as relief measure for immediate needs of the target population.
- Improved food security and reduced hunger among affected individuals, ensured they have access to nutritious meals during a critical period.
- Providing a sense of relief and comfort to the flood impacted population.
- Ensuring the physical and mental well-being of community towards positive effect on their overall resilience and recovery.
- Promoting community cohesion as people came together to support each other fostering a spirit of solidarity and mutual assistance.
- Cooperation of beneficiaries solicited, role of volunteers and ground network strengthened.
- Presence and goodwill earned among the target population.

Conclusion:

The program involved definite risk to the ground personnel carrying out the activities on the ground. The Sewa Europe team successfully overcame challenges such as access to the affected areas, the adverse weather, lack of network and electricity among others.

The program team coordinated successfully with the local authorities, village community leaders, volunteer community members, particularly through its ground network underlining importance of the same in effectively carrying out the relief program.

The role of the village leaders and volunteer community members was very commendable towards spreading the word about the aid available and in mobilizing and identifying the most needy beneficiaries.

Reflecting on the flood calamity, encroachment of wetlands and waterways, homes and other structures built on river banks and other water bodies which narrow the river channels and interrupt the natural flow of water, these may be attributed as man-made factors which aggravate and lead to greater damage than might have taken place. Rapid unplanned construction, mining and deforestation, climate change among others are existing threats towards future disasters and call for more focused intervention at preventive level. Sewa's experience at ground level including from the current crisis will enable to respond and design interventions better.

Sewa Europe expresses its gratitude for the invaluable program donor support without which the present intervention would not have been possible.

Positive feedback was received from beneficiaries in the different locations who appreciated the support received. The beneficiaries are expected to further contribute to greater awareness on the preventive best practices.

Sewa Europe has earned goodwill of the community and made its presence felt on the ground which can be built upon further to continue the required intervention towards an early recovery and long term rehabilitation of the affected population.



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