

# **AILA CYCLONE EMERGENCY RESPONSE (HALDARGIRI)**

## **Situation Post AILA 2009**

Cyclone Aila originated in the Indian Ocean on 23rd May and crossed through North 24 Parganas District on 25th May 2009 at around 3:30pm. The Sundarbans region which is the world's largest delta formed by the rivers - Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna - was badly affected.

- 1 Out of 8 Gram Panchayats in Sandeshkhali I (SK I) Block in North 24 Parganas, 7 were badly affected and 1 was partially affected. In Sandeshkhali 2 (SK2), 6 Gram Panchayats were badly affected out of 8.
- 2 Of the 100 villages in SK I, 65 were completely inundated, including all the 33 villages in the block where Save the Children had been working over the last 5 years, on the issue of Child Domestic Workers & Trafficking.
- 3 In some villages, 100% houses were submerged. Of the villages accessible to the assessment team, there was clearly widespread damage, with only a few pucca structures standing.
- 4 Most houses are constructed from mud most of which have collapsed; and it is likely that, even those that are still standing will collapse once the water recedes.

## **Save the Children (SC) Response**

Save the Children conducted a rapid assessment and also participated in the inter-agency multi-sectoral assessment. Based on the identified immediate needs, SC mobilized internal and external resources to provide immediate support to affected families by way of food and non-food items (NFI) in various villages across blocks Sandeshkhali I & II. In the last 5 weeks, SC operational teams brought relief to 6000 families across 10 villages of Sandeshkhali block in North 24 Parganas district.

There has been a continuous engagement with the affected communities in the immediate relief stage, The following processes were adopted to ensure community participation and of the local governance

### **Selection of beneficiaries (Targeting)**

Selection of village for distribution was determined in consultation with the partner NGO and local Panchayat Raj members (PRI). The criteria for selection were extent of damage to household and livelihood. At the end of an intense process of rapid assessment and dialogue with the communities, 10 villages were selected for provision of relief support in SK I and SK2, namely;

- Habeler Ghat \* Metiakhalai \* Metiakhalai Ghat \* Simulhati \* Dhulia Jhupkhali
- Haldargiri \* Boroajgara \* Kanmari, Bajpara, Bhatida, Duripara
- Darir Jungle \* Rajbadi

Meeting with villagers and formation of Village Committee (VC) to conduct survey in respective villages. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries used were:

- Households with pregnant & lactating mothers and adolescent girls
- Households with children, especially differently-abled children
- Households with elderly people
- Households whose houses were fully destroyed by Aila

The village committee debated the survey findings and verified. Once, the VC approved the list of beneficiaries, the Coupons were distributed with the date and venue of the distribution.