

HUMANIST MOVEMENT

Bihar Floods - What will we do differently

1. Our relief work in the aftermath of the Latur earthquake has taught us that most of the aid rushes to the places most known - 'Killary' in the case of Latur. On the other hand equally affected smaller and interior places remain totally deprived of any aid - So we go in the interiors.
2. After the disaster, resuming normal life as fast as possible is the best healer for the survivors. Objects that facilitates, such as small utensils, matchbox, lantern, salt and grains like rice are crucial - So we focus on providing such things.
3. Media news often get swayed by sensationalisation - a surviving child of six month, ends up getting miles of coverage. For them what can be shown gets preference over the horrible but invisible internal struggle of the survivors. - So we send our own team at the spot to meet the people.
4. Most of the aid distribution is unorganized - throwing objects from the truck. That leads to physically strong people getting away with maximum things and weak getting almost nothing. Often non-affected people crowd around to snatch the aid depriving genuine people of any support. - So we make a list of beneficiaries and distribute systematically.
5. Often aid-providers assume all the locals as helpless, only aid-receivers. - Rather banking on human dignity- they also want to help others - We involve them and work together in the project.
6. Big relief funds collect a huge amount and later they decide what to do with the amount collected. Often after months and years they end up adopting a village or building a school. It is good. But in face of disaster people need immediate assistance. - So we assess the needs, raise that much support and disburse immediately.
7. Governments are ideal relief agency. But it takes time for them to decide and act other than commonly perceived assistance like food and medicine. There is no way government can respond immediately according to the local needs of the affected people - So our team at site studies the needs, decide on the spot, buy locally and disburse immediately.

We commit to spend first and only later collect the money. Thus after the operations we are left with nothing - except the tremendous goodwill of the supporters and supported.

Bihar Flood Disaster Relief

Dear Friends,

Based on our experience of relief work in Latur, Orissa, Kutch and Tsunami, we know that today the need in flood affected areas in Bihar is quite different from what we think seating here.

After assessing these needs a Humanist delegation is already on the scene and has taken charge of two camps of around 8,000 people each. Based on first hand assessment they will intimate the needs on a daily basis e.g. today provision of safe drinking water, food and medicine for diarrhea is more important than sending truckload of unwanted clothes.

We will not collect any money now. Rather we will build a list of confirmed donors who will be ready to donate Rs.1,000 at a telephone calls notice. Based on these assurances, we will organize to buy the necessary things locally and provide immediately on a daily basis.

As a part of this project, I have taken up to build list of 100 such donors confirming to donate Rs.1000 on a calls notice. (The donation will be through **Foundation for Humanisation**, having 80G exemption)

Please advise whether I can count on you as one such donor.

In case you decide, you too can build such list and enlarge the network of effective support.

The Humanist Movement,

11 Yogniti, 18 S. V. Road, Santacruz (West), Mumbai 400054. Tel: 26616197
Email: foundationforhumanisation@gmail.com • Website: www.humanistmovement.org

Donation Form

Donor's Name : _____

Address : _____

Mobile : _____ Email : _____

Amount (Rs.) : _____ PAN No.: _____
