

RF/DM-3/LAT-6/SUDHA

Dear Chandru, Krupa, and all NGO's/voluntary agencies at Bangalore.

We the Bangalore relief team for earthquake at Nandurga of Latur district are fine. Hope you got the phone message. We reached Sholapur by Udyan express around 11.30 am on 22nd Oct, hired a vehicle (FORD trucker) for Rs.550, left Sholapur around 2.30 pm and reached Nandurga CHAI camp at 6 pm. Nandurga is 16 km away from Killari main road. Latur is 70 km from Nandurga. The roads are very bad, transport is a problem.

The CHAI relief camp is well organised with 60 volunteers. As the Bangalore team joined the relief camp the whole team was reorganised. CHAI has established a sub-centre in a village called SARANI which is 10 km away from the main camp. The whole team has been divided into three teams. Two medical teams, one for the base camp and the other for the mobile clinic. There is a survey team consists of brothers from Divine Ward College from Pune. They are assessing the needs in 8 villages. The sanitation team is taking care of the sanitation facilities for the camps.

Sanjiv and Shiva are at the Sarani camp, Vidya at the base camp, Mike is in the mobile team, the Carmel sisters are helping in each team in interpretation, Nagaraj and Chander are in charge of the sanitation team. Since scabies is very common, diarrhoea is prevalent, environment and personal hygiene is very poor, there was need for forming a health education team. Vidya and Chander are in charge of this team.

Two jeeps are available for transportation to all the villages including for purchasing kitchen items. Good hot food is served all three times. Staying facility and water in the camp is excellent. We are concentrating on the remote villages where relief has not reached adequately. The Bangalore response could sponsor one or two villages in supplying blankets, preferably new clothes and some utensils. Rain has stopped and the climate is very hot during the day and very cold during the night.

Fever, cough and cold, eye infections are the other health problems generally handled everyday at the clinic. There were few cases of gastro-enteritis and were shifted immediately to Hyderabad. Almost all the villages are completely collapsed and the villages had become a burial ground and cremation place for people. Bodies had been burnt in front of the houses, we could still see human bones in front of the collapsed houses where bodies were burnt. People are afraid of ghosts and stay far away from the affected villages. RSS, Vivekananda Welfare Association, Maharashtra Housing Board, Sangli group of industries, CASA are some of the groups who are providing houses. We could still hear the cry of women in the camps. Health education team will conduct entertainment programmes during the night in the camps for the people in each village.

There is a need for doctors/nurses and some Marathi or Hindi speaking volunteers since many are planning to leave during the first week of November. I am not able to contact OXFAM or Action Aid people since transport is a problem.

I personally feel that Bangalore's response should be in sponsoring one or two villages in distribution of blankets, sarees, utensils, stoves etc. I shall be able to shortlist the items, no. of houses and names of villages as soon as the survey is over and intimate to you. Old clothes are not received happily. CHAI programme for relief work is well organised. We can distribute through CHAI. BHEL Hyderabad is distributing 2 blankets, utensils and a stove to 130 families through CHAI today. Love to all in Bangalore.

Chander.