

April 2002

Oxfam India Appeal Give Peace a Chance



Dear friend,

As you read this, over a hundred thousand people are struggling to survive in inhumane conditions in over-crowded camps in Gujarat. Rendered homeless and turned into 'refugees' in their own land, they live under insecure conditions. Constant terror, official apathy and uncertainty makes their future fragile- WE NEED TO ACT NOW.

Oxfam India is a national voluntary organisation, with tremendous experience in timely response to humanitarian situations such as earthquakes, floods and conflicts. An Oxfam India team (already working in the Gujarat's earthquake-affected areas for the last 14 months), along with leading mental health professionals and other organisations have already initiated psychosocial care in a limited way, and efforts are being made to step up the intervention.

Our assessment team has just returned from Gujarat. The situation is very grim with increased violence. Most of the survivors donot want to return to their own areas out of fear. Based on its recommendations, the following interventions are planned.

- Provide psychosocial care for the traumatised especially the women subjected to violence and children.
- Improve public health situations in camps through better water and sanitation.and prevention of spreading of communicable diseases like TB.
- Livelihood support to victims by providing tools, equipments and capital.
- Legal support to ensure that compensation and rehabilitation benefits really reach the affected.
- Campaign for peace in collaboration with citizen's initiative / Aman Samuday in Gujarat and other parts of the country to work towards restoring confidence among affected population.

We urge you to join our efforts in restoring survivors livelihoods and building capacities in the communities to give peace a chance. Please remember this is not a Gujarat Problem but that of the entire Nation. We need to act now. We shall keep you posted on this initiative. For more information, please visit : www.oxfamindia.org

A Survivor Speaks, "When trouble started in Ahemdabad says Mr. Alam Rehman, he dismissed it as a rumour but soon the news of people being killed in the most horrendous way spread like wild fire. His telephone was constantly ringing with friends enquiring about their safety.

As the truth dawned on him it was hard to even trust anyone, as you were not sure whether the person was a well-wisher or a foe waiting to hand you over for the angry mobs marching the streets. However, Ahmed's organisation was making secret arrangements to evacuate the family to a safe destination. They were first taken to the company guesthouse and when it got unsafe there also they were hurriedly packed into an ambulance and driven to the city airport and reached Bangalore. His ailing wife was quick to add how grateful she is to have a second chance to live. Her first close brush with death was not too long ago, she remembers the earthquake last year when her family escaped alive. However, she tearfully remembers her house cleaner affectionately who innocently offered her safe asylum in her humble abode, she wonders if she is still alive..."

In Solidarity

G.Sriramappa
Director

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Yes, I want to assist the survivors of violence and **give peace a chance** Cut Here

* Please send your contributions by cheque/DD favouring '**Oxfam India**' and post it to : The Director, Oxfam India, No.201-202, 66/A/2, Mohinder Kunj, Laxmi Market, Munirka Village, New Delhi - 110067, Ph: 6191962, 6191979. Email : ois@vsnl.com, Contact Chennai : 044-6209183. Bangalore : 080-3633274, 3632964

My Amount

* You may also contribute through Master Card / Visa

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Signature Anthorisation No. (For Office use only).....

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Name of the Account : Oxfam India Society (FCRA), Name of the Bank : Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank

Address : 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi . Account No. : SB 23796492 **Swift Code : GRNDIN BBAN1H**

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(IN CAPITALS PLEASE)

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