

## **Flood Relief Report 2** **As at 15<sup>th</sup> August 2004**

Report by: Sewa International Delhi

North Bihar is once again suffering from severe flood situation. Though North Bihar experiences floods every year during the monsoon, this year's flood has surpassed all previous records of floods like that of 1954 and 1987.

- 20 districts, more than 200 blocks and more than 8,000 villages have been affected
- So far 683 have been killed and 22 million people affected, more than 125 villages completely washed away and cannot be traced.
- One million houses destroyed.
- Property worth several hundreds of millions destroyed.

The worst affected districts are Shivhar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Khagaria, Supaul and Saharsa. The flood water has started to recede from 25<sup>th</sup> of July onwards and an epidemic like situation has appeared where people are suffering from diarrhea and snakebite.

Volunteers of Sewa Bharati, Seema Jagaran Manch etc. have once again proved their mettle by way of unmatched dedicated service. They went all out for rescue and relief of the flood victims. In 18 flood affected districts they operated 78 relief camps and 50 medical camps. To coordinate the whole effort 'Badh Peedit Sahayata Samiti' was formed which was assisted by more than 1200 volunteers. Each relief camp distributed food packets in the range of 2000 to 5000 daily. More than 8 lakh food packets, 281 Quintal of foodgrains, 27000 sets of clothes have been distributed so far. Apart from food, drinking water and medicines have also been provided from these camps. 50 medical camps are serving 400 to 500 patients daily.

### **Future Plans:**

1. One village each of 100 families will be selected from following districts: Shivhar, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Jhanjharpur, Samastipur, Rosada, Khagaria, Supaul, and Saharsa. Each family will be provided with a temporary shed, a set of utensils, and a set of clothes. For 10 such families' one hand pump will be installed. Total cost for rehabilitation of 10 villages will be approximately Rs. 70 lakhs.
2. Medical services with a mobile medical van will be provided for next six months. Cost of operations and purchase of the vehicle for 6 months will be approximately Rs 12.25 Lakhs.