

Project Sparsh

Relief for Victims of Karnataka Floods



10th November, 2009

Sankalp India Foundation

Project Sparsh

Images of utter destruction from the affected villages where we provided relief material.



These were once houses. Now all that remains is a pile of rubble.



Sparsh: A Comforting Touch

After realizing the magnitude of the calamity caused due to floods in North Karnataka, Sankalp India Foundation initiated an operation to provide immediate relief for the affected people. To make an initial assessment of the damage, one volunteer visited the flood-affected areas in Raichur within 72 hours of the disaster.

The volunteer visited many villages and also spoke to the District Commissioner, Raichur, the Superintendent of Police, Raichur, the Village Gram Panchayat heads and some other locals of that area to come up with a detailed analysis of the damage. Volunteers in Bangalore in the meantime spoke to relevant contacts in Raichur on a daily basis to get an update on the ground zero realities. All these inputs indicated that the damage was immense.

Project Sparsh was born within 96 hours of the ravaging floods.

With an intention to provide basic immediate help to the victims, funds were collected from known and trustworthy sources. Reports from media and other locals there indicated that food and clothes were reaching people in huge numbers. Almost all relief agencies provided the same. We were told that people would like to rebuild their lives in some way, and a basic element of that is for every family to be able to cook for itself. Sankalp decided to provide utensils to the affected families.

1000 sets of utensils, (each set comprising of 2 bowls, 2 plates, 2 glasses and 2 serving spoons coming to an average of Rs 230 per set) and 73 sarees (costing about Rs 95 per saree) were purchased

The money was converted into resources. In all, 1000 sets of utensils, (each set comprising of 2 bowls, 2 plates, 2 glasses and 2 serving spoons coming to an average of Rs 230 per set) and 73 sarees (costing about Rs 95 per saree) were purchased after an extensive market survey. Quality was not compromised upon and the utensils and sarees were ones that people would be very happy to use. 2 other donors contributed 60 new shawls and 50 new blankets respectively.

A detailed plan was chalked out and over a period of 25 days, 4 groups of volunteers travelled to Raichur and distributed the items to the most affected families in various villages like Bichalli, Katakur, Pannur, Chicksugur, Tungabhadra (Andhra Pradesh), Daddala, Katarki, Akshala. Help was sought by known and trustworthy sources in Raichur for the distribution work.

Below is a table indicating where relief material was distributed

SN	Place	Number of Utensil Sets Distributed
1	Pannur	100
2	Chicksugur	75
3	Kataknur	100
4	Raghunathanahalli	75
5	Bichhali	150
6	Akshala	27
7	Katarki	59
8	Daddala	98
9	Tungabhadra	70
10	Kolur	130
11	Gabbur	50
12	Aashraya Colony	74
	Total	1008

In addition to the utensils we also supplied 72 Sarees, 60 Blankets and 60 Shawls which came from individual donors in various villages in the affected area.



Income and Expenses Statement

Income Statement

Sl No.	Contributor	Amount
1.	M S Ramaiah Institute Of Technology	Rs 21,600
2.	Dariwal Company	Rs 18,302
3.	Cambridge Solution	Rs 5,000
4.	National Instruments	Rs 1,25,801
5.	Individual contributions (Contributions made by 22 individuals)	Rs 56,010

Total income from all contributions = Rs 2,26,713.
(Gettimax contributed 53 sets of utensils directly. It amounts to Rs 12,000)

Statement of Expense and Purchases

Sl No.	Contributor	Amount
1.	Maruti Metal	Rs 09,464
2.	Ramdev Steel Center	Rs 28,143
3.	L N Traders	Rs 1,19,040
4.	Purohit Steel House	Rs 28,142
5.	Mandar Metal Agency	Rs 07,540
6.	Mutha Metals	Rs 27,437
7.	Manik Enterprises	Rs 06,935

In the above table, the first 6 vendors are ones from whom we purchased utensils. A total of 950 sets of utensils were purchased by us and 53 were contributed by Gettimax. This made it a total of 1003 sets of utensils. The last dealer in the table is the one from whom 73 sarees were purchased. Please find all the bills for the purchases on www.sankalpindia.net.

Individual Contributors

| Mr Arjun Nama | Mr Balakrishnan E | Mr Bharath | Mr Devanand Kulkarni | Mr Dileep HB | Mr Geetesh Wankar | Mr Girish BC | Mr Gururaj (CTC) | Mr K. S. Nagaraj | Mr Khojaram | Mr Malaram | Mr Nikhil Satyarthi | Mr Poonamaram | Mr Rajeev Lochan | Ms Rekha Shekar | Ms Ritika | Mr Santosh Krishna | Mr Siddharth Agarwal | Mr Sudhir Mr Ninjoor | Ms Sujata | Ms Vibha H G



1 It was quite an effort to identify the needy people in the affected area. In this image you see a mob resisting proper distribution of tokens.

Salient Features of the Relief Operation

Choice of the Relief Material: Since the team was in close contact with reliable sources of information, less time was spent on effective decision making. The Government was supplying food grains in plenty. Many NGOs were providing clothes too. We saw utensils as the missing link. One vessel each to cook rice and sambhar/dal, 2 plates, 2 glasses and 2 service spoons were given to each family.

Identification of the Needy: The single largest challenge was to identify the neediest people. A twofold strategy was employed to ensure that the relief reached the needy. Firstly, we identified and collaborated with some service minded locals and made use of their knowledge to identify the more needy areas. Secondly, even at the cost of endangering our safety, our volunteers ensured that they visited each house to see the real extent of damage before giving them tokens to collect the relief material. In most places this strategy was useful in ensuring proper identification. This did not deter us from continuing with the chosen strategy.

In 2 villages, Chiksugur, Katarki, Tungabhadra we faced angry mobs trying to snatch away the relief supply.

Slow but sure distribution: A total of more than 120 man hours and 4 volunteer trips were involved in distributing this relief material. This is because a choice of proper distribution was made over speedy unmindful delivery of the utensils. Needless to say, all operational costs were borne by Sankalp.

Large Scale Support: This time Sankalp was happy to receive the participation and support of 25 individuals and the following organisations:

- National Instruments
- Dariwal Company
- Ramaiah Group of Institute
- Gettimax
- Cambridge Technologies

We had informed our supporting organisations that we will not be able to offer tax benefits under section 80-G. In spite of this we received their ample support. The good news for these good Samaritans is that Sankalp received the clearance from the Department of Income Tax to offer tax relief under section 80-G for this financial year. The receipts that will be issued will allow you to avail the tax benefit.



A Word of Thanks



We thank all the Sankalp Friends and Well Wishers who have contributed to the success of Project Sparsh. Your trust in us and our commitment to ensure the best possible delivery of relief to the needy is a matter of great honor and responsibility for us. We have put in all the effort necessary to ensure that your intent and emotions involved in contributing to this cause are delivered as much needed relief to the needy. On behalf of the flood victims and on our own behalf, we the Sankalp Volunteers would like to extend thank you for your thoughtful gesture.

We hope that you received regular updates on the progress of the relief operation on our website, www.sankalpindia.net. In case you have any concerns, queries or suggestion, we will be very happy to hear from you.

Looking forward

As always, we plan to do a comprehensive review of this relief operation in order to see what should be changed to achieve better results. We would keep you informed about the outcome of this discussion as soon as we are done. This will lay the foundation of the next relief programme that Sankalp undertakes. So, please stay tuned right in to www.sankalpindia.net

