

Jan 06, 2014 Meeting minutes of Conf call to discuss the Relief & Rehab proposal for Muzzafarnagar riots.

Attendees: Padmanava, Pradeep, Rajeev, Faisal

Muzzafarnagar Riot victims Relief & Rehab proposal - Background

Beginning on 27 August 2013, clashes between the Hindu and Muslim communities of the Muzaffarnagar district, Uttar Pradesh, India have claimed 43 lives and injured 93. Thousands of people (99% of them from Muslim community) have been displaced during the riots. This area is very close to Punjab. Just separated by Jamuna river. This area never had any religious conflicts since 1927. In fact the muslim community in this area always had strong sense of Indian nationalism even before independence. (Most muslims groups were against partition and chose to stay in India)

Estimated that there are 40,000 people still in the camps. Camps spread out into 4 neighboring districts.

Asha trust is working primarily in a few camps that are about 20 kms away from muzzafar nagar. (Mallakpura (3000), khurgan and Banni Majara camps.)

Displaced people are having a hard time getting back to their villages. They have filed cases against their villagers who created riots. Reports are making it hard to go back to their villages as the miscreants are still not in jail.

People have moved to their relatives houses or any madrassas that were providing shelter. Some have made camps in open land (belonging to forest department).

Its been extremely cold this winter season. Almost 60 children have died because of cold weather, illness etc. in the camps.

Women safety was an issue with rape cases registered before but its settled down now. Arundhati is involved in working with victims and with filing the cases.

Government stopped support for people in camps as they are trying to force people back to their villages.

how many people are involved in organizing the effort? What is being done?

3 people (prof Tripathi from IIT Delhi, Faisal Kham and some one else from Khudia Khidmatgar) are closely coordinating.

had a meeting with 30 people (asha trust, sandeep, etc) and decided to do relief effort (food, blankets etc + communal harmony + legal work + education)

Started to run bridge schools near 3 camps. Mostly students from Govt schools (90%) lost 3-4 months and Mallakpura (3000), khurgan and Banni Majara camps. For these 3 camps, opened an interim schools (5-6 teachers 3-4K salary and some volunteers) till March 2014 for 350 students. For 10-12, Tripathi (IIT Delhi) Akram and Vivek took the coordination to make sure they do not loose years. 55 students filled their forms and getting some tuition support(10K)

Malakpura center has received local support – rented a 5 room building to run the school,

In Rotan, new schools with 2 teachers. Will start from 13th January.

Also trying to provide as much help as they can to make sure the academic year of the students is not wasted. Collaborating with other organizations to collect and distribute educational material.

Displaced people have been facing trouble in returning to their villages. Organizing a dil jodo yatra to improve communal harmony. From Panipath to haridwar. It was much better than the previous yatra where people did not let them enter to those villages. Last one was on a car from Ram Mohan Ji. This one will be walking.

Running a campaign to encourage the hindu community in the riot hit villages to take the initiative to invite the displaced muslim community back to their villages and help them with transition. (Medha, sandeep etc are working on this. Campaign to be run on Jan 26th, Jan 30th)

Starting a vocational training center from Jan 14th. Building rented for free for one year. 300+ Women / girls utilizing the training.

Are the temporary settlements still there or have they been removed by the govt??

Smaller camps have been removed by the govt. But the larger ones are still there where Asha trust is working. These camps have thousands of people and the govt can't easily provide an alternative.

Are there any other NGO working in this area?

There are other NGOs working in this area but the acceptance is not there since a lot of them have religious affiliation. Among others CRY, astitv (Oxfam), Kasturba Trust, Sar Seva Sangh and GSKS bheja

Asha trust is trying to coordinate with the NGOs but its not working well since people give only Relief items.

Local volunteers / groups don't have good training to handle the efforts. Asha Trust tried to provide training.

What items are needed at this stage?

Blankets and other winter clothing has been given by various groups. Trying to identify the most neediest of the people for further help.

Folding beds

Need food (for 350+ kids) who are attending educational centers. (For Jan, Feb, March)

Educational material. (Books, pens etc)

Rs 20k / month for 3 months. (30k collected). – malakpura is taken care of.

Rotan school needs help Rs 10k / month.

Rs 5k for tents

Women empowerment center (got the computer need the remaining).

1.Computer, ----- 9000 (Computer was already donated by someone)

2.Paddle silayi machine ,-----3500

3.Chair 12, 400 per chair ---- 4800

4 Table 2 ,1000 per -----2000

5.Iron Alimara 1-----5000

6.Dari-2 800 per1600

total 25900

Since some of the items from the original proposal have already been supported by other groups Faisal will send a fresh proposal by tomorrow with items that are needed now.