

“ Revitalizing Hopes ”

.....Dealing with the Crash of Phailin in Odisha

October 2013'

Response initiatives taken by



United Artists' Association (UAA)

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Preface

United Artist's Association (UAA) is a secular, non-profit making, non-government and non-political organization working in Odisha, India, since 1964. UAA is constituted with a band of like-minded youths to help the people affected by natural calamities. Due course of journey, UAA has diversified its interventions looking at the needs of target groups but disaster risk reduction has always remained the core area of intervention.

Recently, Severe Cyclonic Storm Phailin has caused substantial damage in Odisha. As a part of Phailin response, in collaboration with Samudram (a State Level Federation of Women Fish Workers' Organization), partner organisations and district administration UAA has contributed its expertise in dissemination of early warning through village and SHG meetings, supporting district administration in timely evacuation, engaging volunteers for shelter management, supporting district administration in proper distribution of Govt. reliefs, providing relief to most affected victims, making arrangement of safe drinking water and organising mass campaign to develop awareness on water and sanitation.

In association with Oxfam India, Action Aid, Water Aid and Udyama-Bhubaneswar, UAA is implementing Phailin Response programme in Ganjam District. As a result of which more than 7200 households in 87 villages could be able to fasten the recovery. It was really worth taking that the initiatives of UAA taken place when there was the exact need.

UAA has taken an initiative to capture and disseminate the sufferings of Phailin victims from its operational area as well as the process followed by Phailin responses. This is the first version of the document for such initiative. As UAA will proceed in expanding its interventions to reach more and more numbers of victims and gain more learning and experiences, it will share it through subsequent version of the document. I am happy that because of painstaking effort of the friends & guides associated with UAA this document could able to see the light of the day.

On the occasion of publication of this document, I would like to thank the district administration and all our supporting agencies for their confidence on UAA to carry out the response programme in the emergency situation. I am sure that so far we have achieved a good success in implementing the programme.

I am also thankful to the team members of Oxfam India, Action Aid and Water Aid, for their in time support and encouragement which helping us a lot to make this journey successful.

Successful implementation of the response programme would not have been possible without the warm support of the BDO, Ganjam/Chhatrapur Block, PRI Members of the project GPs, SHG members, Village Youths and Local CSOs.

Last but not the least my thank goes to the dedicated team members of UAA and the volunteers. This journey would never be completed successfully without the dedicated efforts of the team members.

I am hopeful that this documentation would help others to know the suffering of the Phailin victims and learn the way we are moving from one part to another during our course of journey.

Mangaraj Panda

Secretary, UAA

Acknowledgement

Cyclone is one of the preconditions of life for the people of coastal Odisha. Ganjam District because of its location is severely affected every time a cyclone creeps in. The devastating cyclone “Phailin” has caused huge loss and damage which need the collaborative effort of all stakeholders to respond.

In any post disaster condition, the most important aspect in response is to understand the exact need of the affected people. Better understanding of the need of the affected people would support to customize a need based, people centered and just response program.

Post disaster response programs are aimed at bringing life back to the track. These response programmes most of the time link relief with that of long term rehabilitation programmes. UAA with Support from different aid agencies, INGOs and district administration has initiated response programs in Ganjam and Chhatrapur block of Ganjam district in the Phailin aftermath. The attempt aimed to give respite to the cyclone affected people by ensuring food supply, providing them temporary shelter options through provision of tarpaulin sheets and ground sheets, supply of torch light, supply of water containers, provisioning supply of safe drinking water to the needy villages, repair and chlorination of tube wells, organizing village clean drives & imparting some basic knowledge on health & sanitation issues in the cyclone aftermath.

Through this document UAA has taken an attempt to provide others a broad view of the need of the Phailin victims from people’s point of view as well as the process followed and learning of UAA from its response program. This document broadly covers the topics such as Phailin, a situational analysis of Ganjam district, presence of UAA in the area & how the current response program has been shaped.

The document also puts light on the innovations as well as lessons learnt in the process along with captivating case studies collected from the field as voices from the victims. It is important to note that the process may be a small, time bound one but it was definitely of significant importance if it is to be replicated at other places.

I am thankful to UAA and particularly Mr. Mangaraj Panda, Secretary UAA for his confidence to hand over me the responsibility of community consultation for understanding their needs as well as capturing the process followed so far in the Phailin Response Programme and documentation of the process followed and lessons learnt. His support and encouragement helped me a lot to make this fruitful exercise to produce the document.

This assessment would not have been possible without the warm support extended by the UAA team and numbers of community members, SHG members and PRIs amidst their busy schedules. While the Team had loads of patience to clarify process and outcomes which came up during the discussions and field visit, its spirit of openness to receive the learning from the field, as well as discussions within the team, highlighted its mature outlook and grounded professionalism and finally dedication to the cause. The warmth which I received from the UAA team and the villages visited made the hectic field schedule a cherishable experience of delight and deep insights.

I am really indebted to the community members, the first & foremost stakeholder of the Phailin Response Programme. They have given their valuable suggestion and cooperation during the visit to villages. This document would not be given the current shape without those quips & quintessential points.

Ranjan Kumar Praharaj

**Humanitarian Professional,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha**

I. Odisha and Phailin 2013: an overview

Odisha has about 480 km long coastline which exposes it to floods, cyclones & storm surges which almost recur in every alternate year to dent the socio-economic fiber of the society. Cyclone and flood continues to wreck havoc by bringing colossal loss to the standing crops, livelihoods of marine-fishing communities along with human & cattle casualties.

Next to super cyclone 1999, “**Philin 2013**” would be placed in the history of disaster in Odisha because of its duration and damages. Followed by the cyclone, heavy rainfall and flood's fury in wreaked havoc in the state in which numbers of villages

were submerged and more than 59 lakh people were affected. The cyclone and flood snapped communications to the several places, disrupted electricity and other basic facilities and damaged about 5.5 lakh hectares of standing crops.



Phailin is the Thai word for sapphire and according to the followed procedure of naming tropical cyclones over north Indian Ocean it was turn of a name suggested by Thailand in the list of assigned names. The next cyclone in the region will be called Helen, a name from the list of cyclone names given by Bangladesh.

The Very Severe Cyclonic Storm “Phailin” was a powerful tropical cyclone that caused substantial damage in Odisha, in the second week of October 2013. On October 4, the Japan Meteorological Agency began monitoring a tropical depression that developed in the Gulf of Thailand, about 400 km west of Ho Chi Minh

City in Vietnam. Over the next couple of days the system moved westward within an area of low to moderate vertical wind shear. It made landfall near Gopalpur in Ganjam District of Odisha coast at around 9.30 pm on 12th October. It subsequently weakened over land as a result of frictional forces and degenerated into a well marked area of low pressure.

Cyclone Phailin, categorised as "very severe" by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and one of the most severe cyclone in recent years by weather forecasters, had made landfall at the eastern coast of India, passed through Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states in the evening of 12th October 2013, with a wind speed of 210- 220 kmph. It has triggered the India's biggest evacuation operation in 23 years.

The cyclone wrecked many coastal homes, uprooted trees and blocked roads in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa states. In the coastal town, Gopalpur in Ganjam district, one of the worst-affected areas where hundreds of terrified residents spent their nights in shelters, schools and public buildings.

The death toll of Cyclone Phailin was lower than the 1999 super cyclone but, the scale of damage and devastation is much worse than previously thought. While close to 10,000 people died in the 1999 super cyclone compared to the 59 that lost their lives in 18 of the 30 districts hit by Phailin. It also left a long trail of destruction in the agrarian sector as well with crops damaged in over 12.4 lakh hectares.

“Our estimate is the damage is as bad as 1999 super cyclone when crops over 17.3 lakh hectare area were affected. Whatever we give to the farmer will not be enough,” - Director of Agriculture, R. Sant Gopalan.

II. Phailin and the Situation of Ganjam District

The Phailin Cyclone and the incessant rains and the floods after that caused more devastation in Ganjam district. As per government data, the total population affected by the Phailin cyclone in Ganjam district was 3.5 lakh. But the subsequent heavy rains for the six days from October 22 to 26 and floods due to that caused miseries to around 22 lakh people in the district. Cyclone had its immediate devastating effect but the plight caused by the rains and floods continued for almost a week.

Loss and Damages in Ganjam District by Phailin		
Loss & Damage		Quantity
Human Lives		09 No.
Human Causality		
Livestock	Cattle	2,945 No.
	Poultry Birds	3,49,895 No.
Crops	Field Crop	2,93,900 Ha.
	Sand Casting of Agricultural Land	1000 Ha.

The rains and floods caused more damages to houses than the Phailin. As per the initial report, 1, 64,629 houses were damaged in the district by the cyclonic storm, but the number of houses damaged by the rains and floods was higher at 1, 79,205. More number of houses collapsed during the continuous rains as they had been damaged by the cyclone. It can be said that the losses and problems caused by the Phailin cyclone multiplied because of the rains and floods.

Loss of Fishing

With the cyclonic storm Phailin and the subsequent torrential rains caused immense damage to the boats of fishermen in coastal areas of Ganjam that was a big challenge to their livelihood. According to the report of the district fisheries officer, the total amount of loss to the fisheries sector was assessed to be around Rs. 9977.05 lakh. The loss was the highest in marine sector at Rs. 6184.50 lakh, while the loss to the inland sector fishery sector in Ganjam district incurred a loss of Rs. 3,682.06 lakh. The fishermen depending on the Chilika lake in Ganjam district also incurred losses of Rs.110.40 lakh.



In inland fishery sector boats and nets of fishermen were also severely damaged although it was less than that of marine fishery sector. The total loss of inland fishery sector due to cyclone and rain amounted to Rs. 2032.06 lakh. The tanks and ponds used for pisciculture were also devastated by the cyclonic storm and the floods. Around 1,650 hectares of tanks and ponds were damaged leading to an approximate loss of Rs. 1,650 lakh. It may be noted that 11,218 tanks and ponds are used for inland fishery in Ganjam.

Hence, it is realised that unless immediate measures are initiated for proper compensation and restoration of fisheries sector, it may lead to large scale migration of fishermen from the area outside the State in search of work.



Crop Loss

Ganjam is the worst-affected district in Odisha in terms of loss of livelihood and property in Phailin. There has been extensive damage to the standing paddy crop as a huge area of land covering paddy fields has been submerged in rain water. Crop has been damaged in over 2.5 lakh hectares. About 1000 hectares of agricultural land has been sand casted. There has been huge loss to horticulture farming also as an enormous number of mango and coconut trees have been uprooted. Around 80 per cent of kewda and cashew nut plantations have been destroyed due to Phailin and the resultant floods.



Loss of Shelter

All most all houses made of mud wall and thatched roofs are completely damaged and majority of asbestos and CGI sheet roofing houses are partially damaged. This situation has resulted an insecure life for people especially for women, children and aged. People taking shelter under tarpaulin sheets (black tarpaulin distributed by govt.) are suffering from excess heat during day time and cold during night due to soil moisture.



*An initial assessment shows that over **235,000** mud-and-thatch homes **owned by poor fishing and farming communities** has been destroyed in Ganjam district alone. It expects thousands of people to need help in coming days. - **Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS)***



Scarcity of Drinking water and problem in sanitation

People in Ganjam district are reeling under severe water scarcity due to disruption of water supply in both rural and urban areas, including Berhampur city. Supply of drinking water in the district has been affected primarily because all the rural pipeline networks have been damaged in the cyclone and subsequent floods. At village level, majority of the water sources like wells and tube wells are submerged with sea or flood water and got contaminated.

The rural villagers especially the fishing communities habituated close to the coast are depending upon the water supply through tankers to meet the need of drinking water. If they will continue to use the contaminated water of wells and tube wells which were submerged with the tidal wave and flood water, there is high possibility of outbreak of diarrhoea.



Issues related to Phailin & their Manifestations

Key Issues	Manifestation
Loss of Home	As large scale damage to the homes is made, people are taking shelter on the streets, embankments, temporary shelters made of tarpaulin sheets & school buildings. People are still struggling for a comfortable stay inside the temporary shelters due to soil moisture created by heavy rain and flood.
Damage of Food Grains	The food grains are damaged due to submergence in water. People either have to bank upon Govt/Non Govt Supported Relief or have to stay hungry for days together.
Snapping of Transport Network	The roads remain closed or cut off for days together to the hard to reach costal areas. Hence ferrying of human resources & relief material from one end to another remained a problem.
Loss of Livelihood	<p>Marine fishermen are facing problems in their age old fishing practice which is the only source of income due to damage of huge number of boats and nets.</p> <p>Huge loss of standing crops and delay in Rabi crops has broken the backbone of farming families for whom agriculture is the main source of livelihood.</p> <p>Daily Labourers who bank upon wage earning are not finding suitable engagement. Block Administration also finding it difficult to provide 100/150 days labour under MNREGA.</p>
Damaged of Water & Sanitation Set up	In most of the places, the village tube well, drains are damaged as well as wells are polluted. The individual household latrines are either submerged or damaged that forcing women & adolescents to compromise with privacy in defecation.
Loss of livestock	Livestock procured out of taking loan from the bank died, making it difficult on the part of beneficiary to resurrect the economic backbone. Death of the livestock also affected the food basket of the community as people are unable to purchase the items such as milk, egg & meat etc which were earlier available at home.



III. UAA and Phailin Response

On 9th October, the tropical depression named as Phailin and Govt. of Odisha started declaration of early warning. Since then UAA has been actively involved in responding Phailin in different manners at different stages. Starting from early warning dissemination to its present initiatives of relief and response, UAA has a strong presence in Coastal Odisha in general and Ganjam district in particular.

Early Warning:

As per the provisions in Odisha Relief Code, disaster preparedness meetings at block level needs to be organised twice in a year at all administrative units. At block level a Block Disaster Management Committee exists at all block level which organises Block Disaster Preparedness Meetings on regular at least once in six months. Following early warning of Phailin, UAA along with the concerned BDOs, PRI members of the blocks/GPs, Block level govt. officials and other NGO representatives had organized joint meetings for developing strategies for dissemination of early warning, evacuation and immediate distribution of reliefs to the vulnerable communities.

Once this decision was made, the team members of UAA made regular telephonic discussion with the PRI members at the Panchayat level & set the mechanism which can be triggered to get appropriate result at the time of disaster.

An Information Center-cum-Control Room was formed and continued to function from 10th to 14th October to provide relevant information to the affected areas and control the activities like warning, evacuation and relief operation. Information provided through this centre was very much helpful for marine fishermen and people residing close to coast for evacuating them to the safe place and to minimize the risk. This attempt reduced pressure on block officials at a time when emphasis was on to manage time & devote a large chunk towards logistic operation.

Evacuation and Shelter Management

After early warning, considering the severity of the cyclonic storm-Phailin, govt decided to evacuate people from the vulnerable coastal areas of Ganjam. But initially, people were reluctant to move to safe shelters at distance places leaving their home and household properties. The trained and motivated volunteers and team of UAA convinced the people through village & SHG meetings with the help of earlier formed CBOs for evacuation. This contributed a lot for saving lives of thousands of vulnerable population residing in coastal belt of Ganjam.

UAA has also deputed trained and experienced volunteers in several safe shelters like Cyclone shelters, school/ college building to facilitate the process of space allotment, provision of drinking water and sanitation, availability of emergency health facilities, proper distribution of food and relief materials.

Psychosocial Counselling

Like other disasters, Phailin has also created moral depression and trauma among people those who have lost their property, relatives or suffered from severe health hazards in post-cyclone period. The trained volunteers of UAA continued to provide psychosocial counselling to the trauma affected victims on regular basis.

Facilitation in Govt. Relief Operation

Government started relief operation programme immediately along with evacuation. Initially dry foods and later on cooked food with drinking water were distributed in the safe shelters and other affected areas. Govt also distributed rice, tarpaulin sheets and cash allowances. UAA facilitated the whole process and contributed a lot towards timely available and proper distribution of food, water and other relief materials to the affected

communities. This facilitation process helped UAA volunteers to develop strategies for conducting a rapid need assessment.

Rapid Needs Assessment and Positioning of Beneficiaries

Considering the immediate need and emergency situations, UAA decided to collect different information on vulnerable communities and locations, accessibility of govt services, severity of loss and damage through a rapid need assessment. Information were collected from govt offices, officials, PRI members, village leaders, SHG ladders of Samudram and observing field realities.

Information were analysed and finding was shared with different Aid agencies and humanitarian organization for extending their help to the people in need.

Procurement and storage of relief Items

The items procured for the purpose of distribution followed due procurement procedure. Items are centrally procured by UAA basing on the 3 quotation policy. Quality, timeline for submission and mode of payment etc are finalised by the purchase committee of UAA. The procured items are stored at the central warehouse located at Ganjam which is situated at a central place of the affected areas. The materials are generally taken to the village based on its requirement.



Orientation to Animators and Volunteers

Orientation programmes for the Animators and volunteers are being organised on the theme of relief distribution and response mechanism. In these programmes the animators and volunteers are briefed about the response mechanism. Both male & female animators are selected and imparted training.



Distribution of Materials

Before distributing the materials, a complete list of beneficiaries is prepared taking concern of PRI members and village leaders of the respective affected villages. A token mentioned with the name of beneficiary and materials to be distributed with an assigned serial number is prepared and issued to the beneficiaries prior to the distribution. An acutance register is also maintained matching to the token issued. During distribution of relief materials people are asked to form a queue and maintain discipline. Women, children and aged are given first preference for collecting materials.



The district administration of Ganjam has assigned two blocks i.e. Ganjam and Chatrapur to UAA for Phailin response. On the basis of previous experiences & credibility in disaster response, UAA has been able to mobilize support from different Aid agencies and humanitarian organizations for few of the affected and targeted villages.

The major important items distributed are dry & cooked foods, drinking water, tarpaulins sheets, ground sheets, bucket & mug, water filters, water containers for the community, torch light, solar lamp with mobile chargers.



Response for Water & Sanitation

In the post Phailin situation, availability of safe drinking water has become a major problem in most of the affected villages. Hence, UAA is taking initiatives for distribution of water pouch followed by distribution of drinking water by tankers to the villages. Besides that four separate teams have been engaged for repairing the defunct tube wells and chlorination of water sources. Volunteers are also trained and engaged in organising both community and household level awareness campaigns on water, sanitation, basic health & hygienic issues using various IEC materials. With the support of CBO leaders, volunteers of UAA are conducting Village Clean Drive (VCD) for cleaning of cyclone/flood debris, village roads along with tube wells for reducing disease morbidity due to disasters.



Monitoring in Response Activities

During the response activities monitoring is an in built component of the project. While daily staff review & planning meetings are organised, information of daily distribution is shared with aid agencies through hand written reports and telephonic discussion. Staff shares their issues & seek clarification regarding the response programme in review meetings.

Detail Need Assessment

UAA has taken decision and finalised the formats for a detail need assessment of the Phailin situation in the villages where the response programme has already been initiated. While the prima-facie requirement is to codify & record the loss, effort will also be taken to rank the households with highest degree of losses get maximum benefit out of the supplementation effort. Similarly, due efforts are also being taken to collect adequate & accurate information which would be the “stone” for the long term response and rehabilitation ‘Castle’.

Response of UAA at a Glance

- ◆ Chlorination of well, tube wells and repair of damaged tube wells – 628 nos.
- ◆ Supply of 45,000 liter drinking water per day to 3 villages for 7 days.
- ◆ Supply of 25,000 liter drinking water per day to 3 villages continuing.
- ◆ Supply of dry food to 2,500 families.
- ◆ Supply of dry ration to 800 families.
- ◆ Supply of Tarpaulin, Ground sheet, torch light, solar light, and a set of bucket, mug and glass etc
- ◆ Provision of water filter and water storage tank at community and school level.
- ◆ Orientation and awareness development on water and sanitation – continuing
- ◆ Village clean drives with support of volunteers, village youth and SHG members – continuing.

Key Learning So Far

- Needs assessment/survey for selection of beneficiaries involving PRI, SHG, community leaders, teachers and village youths are supporting a lot to resolve possible conflicts during distributions.
- Female volunteers/CBO members in the Team are ensuring participation of women in the process.
- Supply of Solar light with provision of mobile charger is found to be an innovation in case of disruption of power supply for a longer period of time.
- Distribution system with involvement of community and PRIs - token issue, queue, signing of register is ensuring community participation and transparency in the process.

Future Plan and Way Forward

- Complete the ongoing relief and response activities in rest of the villages for which support has already been mobilized.
- Mobilize resources for the left-out targeted villages for immediate relief and response.
- Complete the Detail Need Assessment and share the findings with different stake holders for mobilizing support.
- Mobilize resources for long-term response and rehabilitation activities.
- Initiate and strengthen disaster preparedness activities at family, community and institutional level.

IV. Live stories from “Ground Zero”

Phailin and the devastation in New Podampeta village

The disaster phantom is running behind us wherever we go. Whom would we blame if nature will be so vindictive on us? We or our forefathers may have done some offense for which we are regularly suffering from such horrifying death & devastation. This was the first few sentences of the villagers of New Podampeta village during the village meeting which was organized on 27/10/2013 to discuss on the sufferings of Phailin victims.



View of New Podampeta village 17days after the cyclone “Phailin”

New Podampeta is a newly rehabilitated village of Ramgada gram panchayat in Ganjam Block of Ganjam District, Odisha. Earlier the villagers were staying in Podampeta village of Palibandha Gram Panchayat. Village Podampeta is close to the shore of which few houses were already submerged with Bay of Bengal. Looking at the risk, the Government of Odisha had taken the decision to rehabilitate them by providing homestead land and assistance under “Mo Kudia” scheme for construction of houses. While homestead patta is provided for all the 150 families only 110 of them have left the old village and rehabilitated in the newly formed village which they named “New Podampeta”. Village New Podampeta is just at 1km. distance from the sea. All the villagers are from Nolia (OBC) community and sea fishing is the only source of their livelihood. Under Mo Kudia Scheme Rs. 48, 000 is available for construction of house.

“In the 1st phase Govt. had released just one third of it and we were asked to complete the work up to plinth level to avail the 2nd phase. It was impossible to excavate foundation and procure brick, cement etc. to start the work with such a small amount. The villagers spend the money for domestic purposes and staying as usual in their Kudia (Cottage). I am afraid Govt. may not provide us any assistance further to construct a house as we are already enlisted in least of beneficiaries under Mo Kudia scheme” – Ch. Janki.

I am afraid; Govt. may not provide us any assistance further to construct a permanent house as we are already enlisted in least of beneficiaries under Mo Kudia scheme – Ch. Janki (villager).

“All the 110 families of our village were leaving in huts and cottages having thatched roofs. The Phailin early warning made them sleepless. All of us were feared and unable to take decision how we can save our children and family members. The Anganwadi Center and Primary School of our village runs in private houses while nearby cyclone shelter in Aranpur village is at 4 kms distance. Meanwhile on 11th October, the field staff of UAA came to our village and organized meeting with the villagers and SHG members and convinced us to evacuate. Initially most of the villagers were reluctant to leave their house and evacuate to the cyclone shelter at Aranpur. When the staff of UAA reminded the panorama of 1999 super cyclone, all our villagers decided to leave the village and evacuate. At 3 O’ clock in the night of 11th October all our villagers evacuated to the cyclone shelter in Aranpur village for which this time there is not a single mortality in our village”. – B. Lachhmi (villager).

At 3 o’ clock in the night of 11th October all our villagers evacuated to the cyclone center in Aranpur village for which this time there is not a single mortality in our village. – B. Lachhmi (villager).

As per B. Chittama a women of the village "There are three cyclone shelters in Aranpur village and more than 200 people were staying in each shelter. Both male and female were staying in same rooms and situation of water and sanitation was horrible. There was hardly any scope to use the wash room and toilet. All of us managed to spend almost 36 hours with whatever dry foods available from Government. Still we are happy that we could save the life of our children.

I dropped all my family members in the cyclone shelter and came back to the village to take a packet in which we had kept our important documents, cloths and books of my children. The wind speed was so high that it took me meters back every step I put ahead. It was unable in my part to go back to my family members. I decided to stay in the village. I was among the three persons who had stayed in the village and seen the devastation of our village from very close. The next

day on 13th Oct. 2013 I got admitted in the PHC at Palor and my family spent Rs. 1050 to bring back my sense. Thanks God I could see my family members again. - B Gala, Male 41.

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B. Gala with his family members in front of their damaged house

Returning from the Cyclone Shelter the villagers found that all the houses in their village are damaged. The roofs and roofing materials are thrown at distance places and the mud walls are fallen. There was no other ways than to stay in the cyclone shelter for another 2 days and to manage with available dry food and cocked food whatever was available.

Major Loss and Damages in the village

- ◆ Damage of all houses
- ◆ Casualities due to falling of mud walls
- ◆ Damage of Fishing Boats
- ◆ Loss of Fishing Nets
- ◆ Damage of Books and School Uniforms
- ◆ Water logging and Unhygienic condition around the village
- ◆ Breach in the connecting road to the village
- ◆ Failure of electricity
- ◆ Life of Poultry, Ducks and goats



Looking at the situation and need of the villagers, both the district administration and UAA as well distributed dry foods and rations. The field staff and volunteers of UAA monitored the distribution process. With support from the aid agencies, UAA has also provided tarpaulin sheets, ground sheets, solar lamps with mobile phone charging facility and a set of bucket, mug and glass to each of the 110 families. Three big size water filters are provided for use in the school and at community level for drinking water. Water quality in one out of



three tube wells in the village is good which is located at 300 meters from the village.

Entire villagers always remain engaged in fishing activity which is their major source of livelihood. But due to damage of boats and loss of nets they are now helpless. One boat almost provides livelihood opportunities for 6-8 families. The boat owners are unable to spend Rs.40, 000 to 50,000 for repair of the boats. Majority of the villagers are now in trauma and can't visioning to restore their livelihood. It would have better to die in the cyclone than to leave such a life where we are dying daily. Why the cyclone damaged our boats and nets and left us empty handed to see the face of our hungry children - B Parbati (Female villager).

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Hopeless villagers of New Podampeta without employment



Empty Poultry sheds



Damaged Road connecting to the village



School running under temporary shed



Completely damaged houses in the village

Debaki Got Lessons from Cyclone “Phailin”

My organs are not functioning and I am feeling hopeless when I am looking at my damaged house and thinking of earning livelihood. I think I will be mad. I can't see my children in empty stomach and hungry face. But, how many days I will get relief and feed my children. How can my three children survive on the moisture ground under the tarpaulin sheet in the winter? Ch. Debaki was going on expressing her feelings when she found some outsiders showing interest to talk to her.

Ch. Debaki 36 wife of Ch. Daneya lives in New Padampeta village of Ganjam Block in Ganjam District with her husband and three sons. Debaki belongs to the traditional fishing community. Her family depends on fish catching and sale of fish as well as dry fish to earn their livelihood.

Debaki's family doesn't have their own fishing boat or net. But, Daneya works in the boat of other villagers as a labourer for catching fish. After deducting the cost of fuel and giving 50% of the fish caught to the boat and net owners, Daneya and other 6 to 8 members engaged in a single boat for catching fish share the remaining fish among them. This way he earns Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per day. But, such employment is not available throughout the year as there is restriction in fish catch during breeding time. Sometimes, weather also not supports to go inside the sea.



Ch. Debaki and her husband in front of their damaged house



Damaged boat in which Ch. Daneya works as a fish catcher

“A new boat costs about 1.5 lakhs and the cost of repair of a partially damaged boat will come around Rs. 50, 000 once it is opened by the mechanic. We have purchased the boats by taking loans and not completely returned the installments so far. Who will give us loan again to repair the boats?” - B. Satya, boat owner.

nor Debaki is getting any opportunity to earn for their family. “A new boat costs about 1.5 lakhs and the cost of repair of a partially damaged boat will come around Rs. 50, 000 once it is opened by the mechanic. We have purchased the boats by taking loans and not completely returned the installments so far. Who will give us loan again to repair the boats?” - B. Satya, boat owner.

“I don't have a Pacca house or bank balance but I never keep my children hungry. I have always given them good cloths and study materials. I want to see pleasure in the face of my children. But I got a lesson from Cyclone Phailin. Henceforth I will try to initiate alternate livelihood activities like backyard poultry, goat rearing etc. along with our traditional occupation.” – Ch. Debaki.

Similarly, Debaki also adds to her family income by preparation and sale of dry fish or selling head load of fish in the adjacent areas. They were managing their family well with the income they earn. But in Phailin 2013, the boat in which Daneya works damaged as it struck with a big tree. Almost all the fishing boat in their village is damaged and the nets are lost. Neither Daneya

Phailin Exaggerated Water Quandary of Gokharkuda Nuasahi Village

Gokharkuda (Nuasahi) is a hamlet village of Gokharkuda revenue village which comes under Kalibandha Gram Panchayat in Ganjam block. Altogether 80 household resides in Nuasahi village and they depend on sea fishing for their livelihood. The village is located at just 300 meters distance from Bay of Bengal.

The only tube well in the village is defunct since years and the villagers use water from three numbers of open wells which are located at an average distance of 0.5 km. for villagers. In absence of any alternate mechanism, the women and adolescent girls of the village were fetching water from the wells for drinking, cooking and other domestic uses. The drudgery of pregnant women and adolescent girls in fetching water was a chronic problem in the village.

“Phailin has caused many loss and damages but the most grave is that it multiplied the day’s long drudgery of women and adolescents in our village for collecting water.” – M. Parbati, female, 41.

In cyclone Phailin, almost 80% of the fishing boats and nets of the village are damaged, coconut and cashew plants are uprooted and 52 out of 80 houses in the village are fully damaged. “Phailin has caused many loss and damages but the most grave is that it multiplied the day’s long drudgery of women and adolescents in the village for collecting water.” – M. Parbati, female, 36.



B. Parbati with clean drinking water she collected from the tanker

The tidal wave and flood water submerged in all the three wells and the well water got contaminated. Still there is water logging in the surrounding areas. The village women are now waiting daily for the water supply tanker to collect clean water. In absence of sufficient clean water the villagers are using the dirty water of the open well and pond for cleaning their utensils and other domestic use.



Considering the problem in the village, UAA has installed two numbers of temporary plastic water storage tanks in the village and supplying safe drinking water through tankers. The trained volunteers are regularly conducting awareness development programs on WASH in the village through, village meetings, door to door visit and also using different IEC materials. The district administration has also started supplying clean water to the village through tankers. "It's right that we are not getting the quantity of water we need but, we are thankful that availability of safe drinking water in time saved the life our children from communicable diseases like diarrhea. – B. Basanta, female, 35.



B. Basanta cleaning her utensils using the dirty water collected from open well



Mahalachhmi is no More the Mother of Wealth

.....Phailin has made her broke

Before Phailin, Mahalachhmi was considered to be the mother of wealth for seven families in Nolia Nuagaon village. In cyclone Phailin her fishing boat damaged, fishing net lost and even the shelter house completely damaged. She is not able to provide shelter to her children and feed them in time. How can she think of others in the village? The story goes like this.

S. Mahalachhmi, wife of S. Lachheya had saved Rs. 20,000 out of her family income which she and her husband were earned by collecting and selling fish. That time, her husband was working as a labourer in others fishing boat. Mahalachhmi motivated her husband to take loan and purchase their own boat so that they can earn better and provide employment to other poor families in the village.

Convinced with the proposal of Mahalachhmi, Lachheya took loan of Rs. 1, 10,000.00 from the money lenders at 36% interest per annum. Adding his family savings of Rs. 20,000.00 he purchased a fishing boat at the cost of Rs. 1, 30,000.00. He also purchased an old net and repaired it for his use. Now Lachheya started fishing using his own boat and net. He employed another seven persons in his boat or fishing. There was good catch and after giving the share to others and deducting the cost of fuel and other expenses, Lachheya was giving Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 on an average per day in the hand of Mahalachhmi. Mahalachhmi was timely repaying the loan installments with interest and managing her family smoothly. She was also ding to her family income by making dry fish and selling head load of fish or dry fish in the nearby villages.

The happiness of Mahalachhmi didn't last long. In cyclone Phailin 2013, all the villagers including her family was evacuated to the safe shelters at Chhatrapur which is 7 kms. away from Nolia Nuagaon. After returning to the village she found that her fishing boat is almost damaged, fishing net is lost inside the sea and residential house completely damaged. "I don't believe that why nature is so cruel on us. I just see darkness everywhere.

"I don't believe that why nature is so cruel on us. I just see darkness everywhere. For how many days I will keep my children under the tarpaulin sheets? How can I return the loan installments and the most important is what I will say to the other 7 families who were dependant on our boat for their livelihood. Who will provide us loan again for repair of the boat?" – Mahalachhmi was unable to control her emotions.

For how many days I will keep my children under the tarpaulin sheets? How can I return the loan installments and the most important is what I will say to the other 7 families who were dependant on our boat for their livelihood. Who will provide us loan again for repair of the boat?" – Mahalachhmi was unable to control her emotions.

Not only Mahalachhmi, almost 698 out of 700 families in the village those who earn their livelihood from fishing are now suffering from the same problem. They are not getting employment as the boat and nets are damaged. How many days we will get relief and manage our family? If situation continues like this we have no other way than to migrate in search of wage labour in Chhenai or Kolkata. - M. Daneya, village youth.



S. Mahalachhmi sharing her sorrows



S. Mahalachhmi in front of her completely damaged house

Pent-up Feelings of T. Gauri – a Class Three Student



Though not told but the feeling of Gauri can be better understood looking at her face. When Gauri saw her mother carrying her spoiled books and other study materials she was just looking at it. Her expressions were much clear than words which were booming around again and again I lost my books and other study materials. How can I read? What will I answer to my class teacher and many more.....

She was denying going to the cyclone shelter leaving her study materials. We couldn't carry all those with other materials and cloths of our entire family member. There was not enough space in the shelter to keep all those and it was raining throughout the day. We forcefully took her with us to the cyclone shelter when we found others ready to leave the village. Returning from the cyclone shelter she found her study materials under the fallen mud wall which were almost damaged. Since then she is remaining shy looking at her lost books and other study materials. – Gouri's Mother.

Returning from the cyclone shelter she found her study materials under the fallen mud wall which were almost damaged. Since then she is remaining shy looking at her lost books and other study materials. – Gouri's Mother.

Adding further she says, "School books are not available in the open market. How can we collect books for her?"

Not only Gauri, almost all the children of thatched houses which are 365 out of 700 in Nolia Nuagaon have lost their books, note books, school bags and other study materials. Most of the bi-cycles used by the girl students are also damaged due to falling off roofs and walls. In the district, school buildings are damaged and several schools are remaining closed. As per the interim report of the district administration, all the classrooms in 81 schools have been damaged. These include primary schools (44) upper primary schools (27) and high schools (10). Similarly 2177 classrooms of 1274 schools were also damaged in Phailin in Ganjam district.

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While the parents are worried about the shelter and livelihood these students without books, uniforms and study materials are finding none to share their feelings.

Revitalizing Hopes

