

**STANDING  
BESIDES THE  
SANTAL  
COMMUNITY**

Report on Supporting Flood  
Affected Santal Community



September 2017





## FORWARDING

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*We, the Syngenta Foundation (SFB) hereby submit the report on relief and rehabilitation project. SFB pays its heartiest thanks to Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) for standing beside flood affected Santal communities particularly for project beneficiaries of Sustainable Agriculture for Santal Communities (SASC). Special thanks to Paul Castle, Head of Communications, SFSA for ensuring grant for flood victim Santal farm families.*

*We also grateful to Simon Winter and Marco Ferroni, SFSA Executive Directors for their condolences to these floods affected people. Special thanks to Robert Berlin, Olga Speckhardt and Natalia Mezzenga, and Sazzadul Hassan, SFB Chairman for extending their hands and guidance for performing the project efficiently. SFB is thankful to Mohammad Alam Hossain, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Birganj for his support and attending in relief and rehabilitation materials distribution event. Thanks to Gram Bikash Kendra (GBK) staffs for their support for organizing events.*

*Lastly, I would like to thank my SFB team members for conducting relief and rehabilitation project successfully. Without all of their support, the project would have been incomplete.*

*I wish this report would help in understanding SFSA and SFB efforts in lights of recent flood in Birganj, Dinajpur, Bangladesh.*

*Thank you all.*

**Md. Farhad Zamil**

Country Director

Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh

September 20, 2017

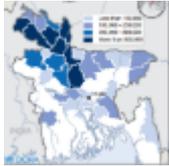
Aug 2017

Scenario and Support at a glance

# FLOOD

SYNGENTA FOUNDATION BANGLADESH

## FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE

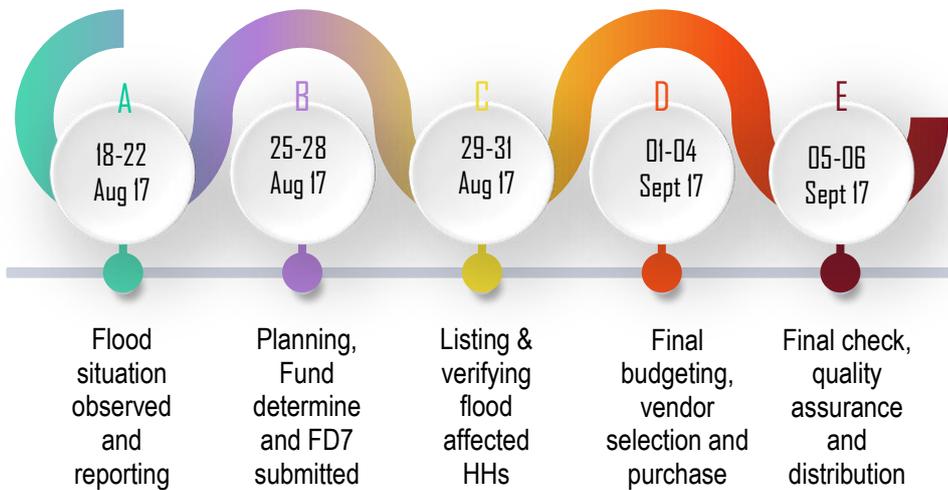


Bangladesh  
**6.78 Million**  
Total 31 Districts

syngenta foundation  
for sustainable  
**12000** agriculture  
SFB: IASP Project

syngenta foundation  
for sustainable  
**1650** agriculture  
SFB: SASC Project

## TIMELINE



## SUPPORTS



**050**HH

House Repairing



**400**HH

Food and Hygiene



**380** MAN DAYS  
**62.5K** SEEDLING

Employment and seedling



**4.5**  
Average HH size



**100**HH

Education Materials



**010**HH

Water Tubewell  
Platform Development



**010**HH

Eco Friendly Oven

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Devastating flood flowed over the country Bangladesh in August 2017 destroyed and damaged around 6,775,352 peoples live and livelihood from 31 districts. Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh (SFB) works in the north-western part of the country and flood has damaged the field crops, houses, livestock etc. of project beneficiary people. In particularly, ethnic community call Santals from Birganj sub-districts under Dinajpur district are the beneficiary of Sustainable Agriculture for Santal Community (SASC) project were affected by the flood on 14 August counted 525 households, took attention of SFB as they are living bottom at the pyramid, disadvantages, poor and cannot resilience the disaster shock. Understanding the situation, SFB raises its hand and stand beside flood affected Santal community with 6 types of relief and rehabilitation support. These emergency and long-term supports include food and health hygiene support, house repairing support, educational material support, tubewell's platform development support, improved eco-friendly oven support and employment creation support for 400, 50, 100, 10, 10 and 10 santal household respectively. Besides this, the supports for producing around 120,000 vegetable seedling crate jobs for day labors as well as the long-term opportunity for the flood affected farmers to comeback into regular income by cultivating vegetable. These seedlings will be distributed among them with some specific conditions for their sustainability. The relief and rehabilitation materials distributed on 6 September, 2017 in presence of Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Birganj and the country director of SFB at Birganj Degree College, Dinajpur. A total value of the support is some USD 10,000 funded by Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland.*



# 1 Background

In 2017, Bangladesh has experienced second-time flood, and the most devastating and spreading one was in the mid-August of a scale unseen in recent years. As monsoon rain kept on pouring and overflowing the rivers in the country as well as the upstream hilly regions of neighboring countries the flood affected the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river basin area. After the shocking flood of July, this flood started on 12 August in northern, north-eastern and central part

COUNTRY FLOOD SITUATION AT A GLANCE	
No. of affected district	31
No. of affected Sub-district	183
No. of affected Municipality	47
No. of affected union	1,200
No. of affected village	8,764
No. of affected population	6,775,352
No. of death	121
No. of people missing	5
<b>Damage</b>	
House	71,628 fully and 548,175 partially damaged
Road	382.5 km fully & 4,432.38 k.m. partially damaged
Crops	15,529 Ha land & 562,594 Ha land crops partially damaged
Animals	9331 animals died
Embankment	7.66 k.m. fully & 96.26 k.m. partially damaged
Bridge	265 bridges and culverts damaged
<b>Disruption</b>	
No. of tube-well drowned	45263
<b>Distress</b>	
No. of people displaced	160,734

of the country and disrupted the life of the people of 1200 union of 183 sub-district under 31 districts. The countrywide scenario of the flood is jotted in the above table 1.

Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh (SFB) is working in the north-western part of the country and the flood hits its three working districts named Dinajpur, Nilphamari, and Rangpur mostly. Flood has damaged the field crops, houses, livestock etc. of around 12,000 project beneficiary people; SFB focuses on only santal community as they are living bottom of the pyramid. A total 1,200 Santal HHs lives in Birganj in Dinajpur district in which 750 HHs directly involved with SFB's Sustainable Agriculture for Santal Community (SASC) Project whom are mostly affected by flood. Being disadvantages and poor, the santal community are always vulnerable and cannot be resilient in disaster shock. Understanding the situation, SFB raises its hand and stand beside flood affected Santal community.

## 1.1 Primary Assessment

This devastating flood flowed over the Birganj on 14 August and SFB immediately deployed its staffs to understanding situation. The flood water continues till 18 August and team primarily assess the degree of damages and find out the immediate way to stand beside them.

After visiting the area, SFB team primarily identified 525 Santal HHs (70%) of SFB's beneficiaries affected by the flood and 50% of them were severely affected. The flood damaged houses, crops, livestock, stored food, material etc. estimated values USD 100,000+ and the opportunity losses calculated USD 60,000+ for losing job and others only for the mentioned santal households. This assessment also segregated the area of damages as follows –

**Damage house and shelter:** Most of the houses of Santal community are constructed on mud. And due to continuous and heavy rainfall and subsequent flood water causes the devastating damages to these households of Santal communities. The flood water overflowed and destroyed 100 houses completely and 50 houses partially. Along with their houses it also damaged their in-house foods, clothes, materials etc. It may calculate the value near about USD 81,900. They were devastating from their primary needs. In the long term, the maintenance of house and food consumption they have to sell out whatever they have. Hunger and malnutrition will be dragging them again.



**Crop losses:** Mainly aman rice, jute, and vegetables were in the field during flood. All of the field corps were damaged in this area where the Santals owned only 30 acres. Around 15 acres of rice and 10 acres of vegetables were totally damaged. 5 acres of vegetables were somewhat damaged and may get little more money from there. The flood also spoiled some Bashok (medicinal plant) plant cultivated by the community people besides the road. There were seed beds of rice which would be transplanted after few days. All the affected rice seed bed and rice fields were fully washed away by this flood water. Some were fruit bearing vegetables and ready to harvest. These vegetables include brinjal and chili. Jute were also ready to cut from the field. The estimated value for these damaged corps were about USD 16,400. Reinvesting for agriculture will be difficult for them. They may sell-out

their land and will become more vulnerable.

**Livestock damage:** Santal communities rear different livestock traditionally. And these includes cow, goat, pigs, and chicken. The flood took away cruelly more than 500 chickens (valued USD 2,100) from 50 HHs. It also causes food crisis for the cattle. The cattle were more vulnerable than human. Even more they were not getting right price in that situation if they want sell these cattle. The additional income opportunity has been closed. Chance of malnutrition babies is increasing.

**Loosing job opportunities:** Santal are mostly agricultural day labor (95%) and because of damaging all the agricultural crops they loss their job. The exclusive agricultural day labourer were passing measurable days due to lack of foods. No more job for them within 1 or 2 months in their locality. And finally, this affecting their livelihoods to continue. The additional income opportunity has been closed. To cope with this vulnerable situation, they are selling their valuable asset. Chance of malnutrition babies is increasing.



**Diseases infestation:** During the flood, lack of pure drinking water and sanitation some people have already been affected by diarrhoea and vulnerable to spread these diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, and other water borne diseases after the flood. After flood disease affection also common for cattle. Children, women, elderly and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable, as they are less resilient against disruption to their livelihoods. The people become weaker and working stamina will be reduced.

**Damage of educational materials:** In economic value is not much more quantifiable but damages of book and educational equipment causes a dream loss of flood-hit parents. About 100 school going student are frustrating about their education. The dream of educated future generation will not see the light.

**Disruption of road communication:** Some roads, culvert and prayer place ruined. Without government support it will difficult for community people to overcome the problems.

## **1.2 Fundraising**

Understanding the flood situation by having *report on flood situation in Bangladesh and Santal communities*, SFSA approved USD 10,000 as emergency support for the flood affected Santal HHs of SASC project. After getting NGO affairs bureau approval, SFB distributed relief and rehabilitation materials on 6 September 2017 to the Santal's flood affected people.

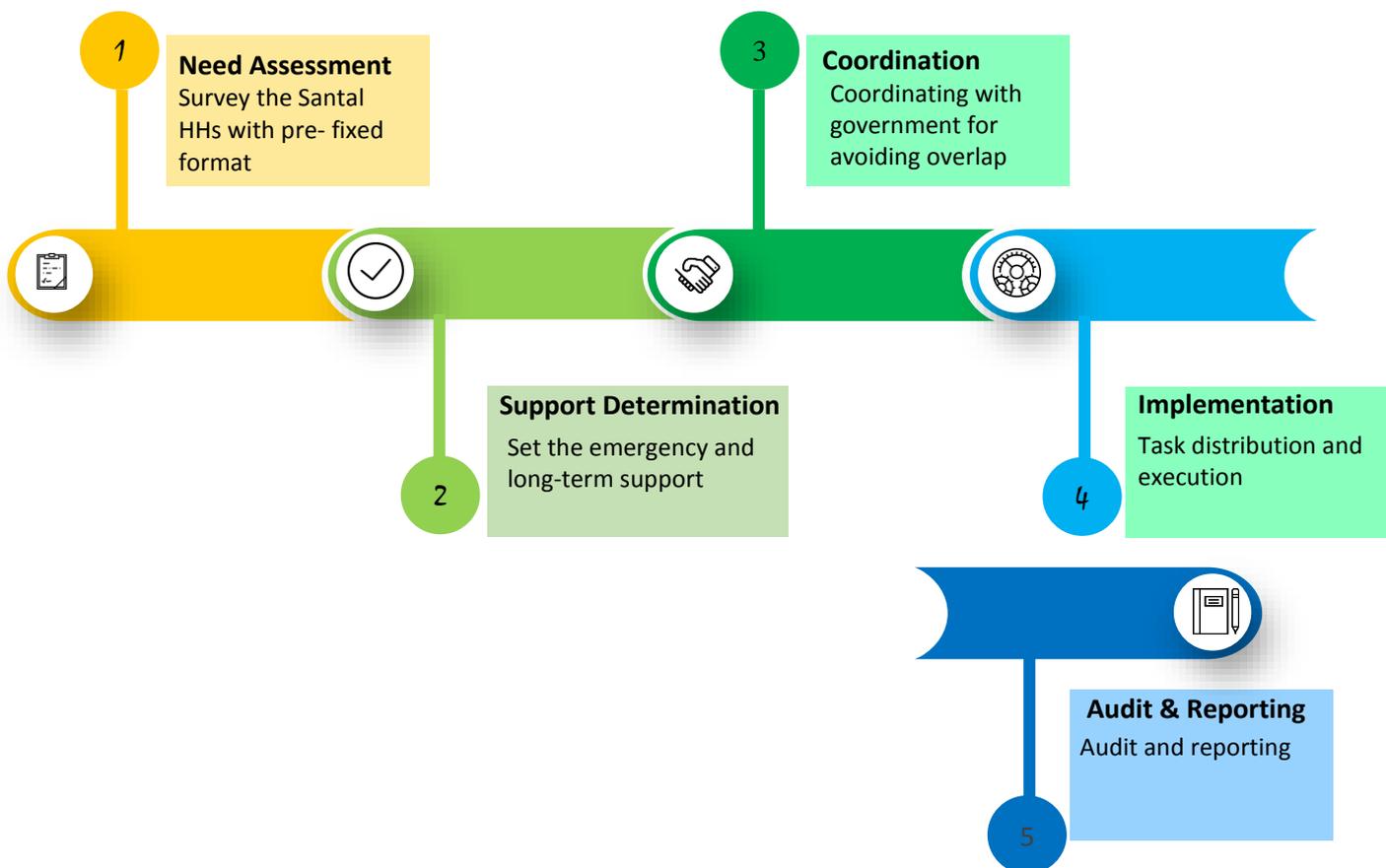


## 2 Strategy of Support

SFB set some key criteria for ensuring eligibility to get support individual/HH as below:

- Should Santal beneficiary under SASC project
- Santal or HHs affected by flood
- Support should determine on degree of damages
- Santal HHs should not get any support for their house renovation by others

Thereafter, SFB developed a strategic roadmap for completing the task precisely as follows-



## **2.1 Need Assessment and Household selection**

The primary assessment was unable to describe affected individual name/HHs and their degree of damages. Having specific formats SFB collected individual flood affected household information. The information was put in excel for analysis aimed to finalizing individual/HHs support. This assessment gave precious information about the household size and major areas of damages and suggestions for determine the support. Suggestions are given below: -

- a. **Cluster:** Out of 30 clusters 10 were affected by flood significantly which was suggested for support.
- b. **Houses or Shelter:** Assessment identified that at least 50 HHs were unable to repair or rebuild their house without any support within short time. Among 50 HHs, a total of 60 bed rooms and 29 others rooms were damaged by the flood.
- c. **Food and Health Hygiene:** Most of the flood affected HHs got emergency food support from government which was not enough. Assessment found that at least 400 HHs need food support as well as health and hygiene support.
- d. **Educational Material Support:** The assessment identified at least 100 flood affected Santal's students were frustrating on continuing their education because of some losing their books and educational material like khata/note book, pen, pencil etc. The flood affected families' priority to manage cost for foods and shelter than education. Though government has taken initiative to provide text books but education supplementary materials were unavailable. So, supporting them by providing education supplementary materials will be dream connecting effort.
- e. **Ensure pure drinking water:** The assessment found that the people were taking water from the tube-wells but some platform are washed away by flood and most of them are not plastered yet. It is not hygiene for taking drinking water from those tube-wells because there is chance of mixing contaminated water though the bottom of the tube-wells. It is suggesting to support at least 10 tube-wells to ten clusters to plaster by concrete.
- f. **Support for agriculture:** The major crops losses were mainly rice and vegetable. During the assessment, it was revealed that some rice damaged HHs have already replanted their field by seedling from other sources. For rest of the farmers (vegetable and rice) there is no instant solution due to unavailability of seedling in those area. So, producing seedling and distributing among them could add value to solve their requirements.
- g. **Support for employment:** Usually August and September are dull season for day-labor and this flood made them totally jobless. Engaging them as day labors in seedling production could a way of the solution of employment generation as well as availability of seedlings.

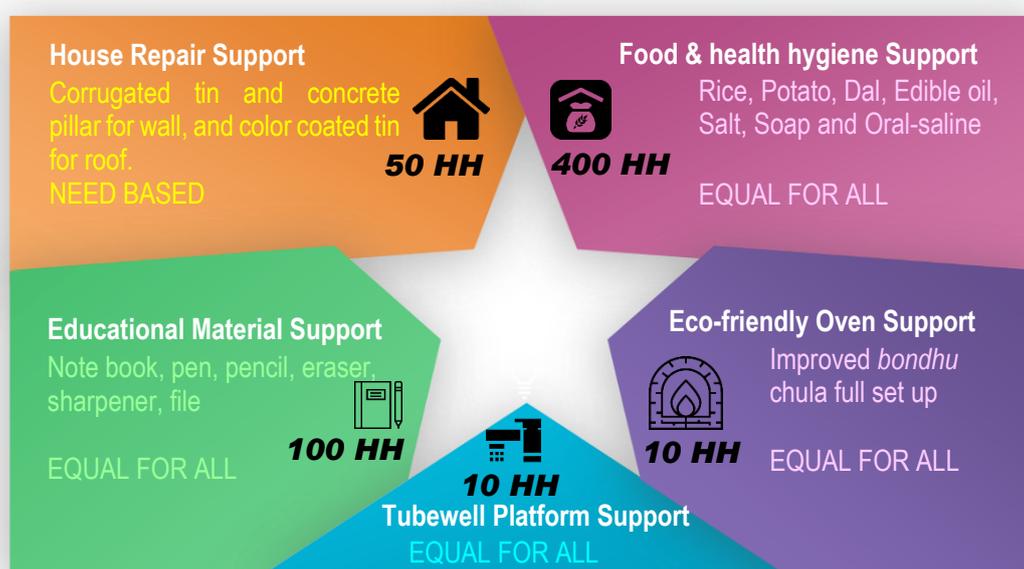
- h. **Eco-oven Support:** It was kind of extended support aim to decrease troublesome of using their existing one. Eco-oven can ensure to less use fuel materials as well as friendly for cooking.

## 2.2 Support determination

Based on need assessment findings, there were two types of supports:

- ✓ Emergency support
- ✓ Long-term support

**Emergency Support:** Emergency support aims is to meet current need for the flood affected santal families. The support includes five packages as bellows-



It finalized 50 HHs for providing the House repairing support. Depending on the damages of the houses (bed room only) the support was determined in 6 categories-

- i) Corrugated color tin for roof, corrugated tin for wall and concrete pillars for wall (5 HHs)
- ii) Corrugated tin and concrete pillar (30 HHs)
- iii) Corrugated color tin for roof and concrete pillar (1 HH)
- iv) Corrugated tin for wall (9 HH)
- v) Concrete pillar (3 HH)
- vi) Corrugated color tin for roof (2 HH)

Ten tube wells platform support determined for the 10 clusters where the access of more HHs to get pure drinking water. Similarly, 10 improved eco-friendly oven supports determined one each for 10 clusters. This emergency supports were also one kind of demonstration for them to change their long-

term behavior of consuming pure drinking water and cooking. Educational support determined one student only from one family. All sum 100 students selected from 100 HHs for this support. Food and health hygiene support determined for all 400 selected HHs who may have got above mentioned support or not. It was equal for all.

#### **Long-term Support:**

Considering the day labor depending more vulnerable families, it has created 200 man-days working opportunity in 20 days for 10 HHs. These 10 labors will work in a seedling nursery of an entrepreneur and produce 120,000 vegetable seedlings. The support was the all production cost of seedling including labor, seed, materials, maintenance etc. The produced seedling will be distributed among the santal community with some specific condition.

### **2.3 Coordination**

For distributing the relief and rehabilitation support SFB coordinated with the Local administration Office call Upazilla Nirbahi Office according to suggestion from NGOAB. This coordination helped to avoid overlap of support by government or others sources/NGOs in same place/HH.

### **2.4 Action Plan Development**

SFB developed an action plan and form committee to execute tasks accordingly. The key action plan was like below-

<b>Sl.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1	Understanding the situation of floods and its affect in SASC project	18-Aug
2	Flood Situation observation	20-Aug
3	Planning meeting for emergency support with SFB staffs	25-Aug
4	Developing and Submit FD7 to NGOAB	28-Aug
5	Informing local government	28-Aug
6	Listing flood affected HHs under SASC	28-Aug
7	Selected beneficiary verification	29-Aug
8	Finalizing support head and budget	30-Aug
9	Quotation collections	30-Aug
10	Vendor selection and place work order	31-Aug
11	Token supply	05-Sept
12	Purchase and packaging	05-Sept
13	Distribution	06-Sept
14	Follow up (Distribution and implementation)	16-Sep
15	Report Writing	20-Sep
16	Audit	Within two months



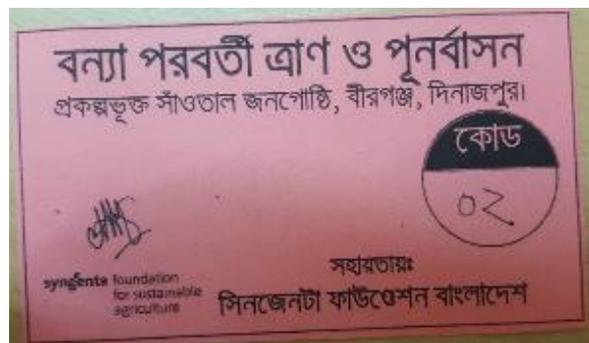
## 3 Implementation

A well-formed committee executed the developed action plan. This committee was responsible for implementation and take care of this relief and rehabilitation distribution project. It ensured the accountability, transparency and time efficiency. The committee included the following members-

Coordinator	2 Persons	Moven and Shahin
Info collection and validation committee	7 Persons	Mukul, Shobug, Kisku, Mamun, Rouf, Ashraf, Bhupesh
Purchase and procurement committee	7 Persons	Shahin, Karim, Ahsraf, Rouf, Moven, Krishno, Apollo
Coordination and relief distribution committee	10 Persons	Moven, Krishno, Karim, Rouf, Mukul, Shobug, Kisku, Mamun, Nasir, Deepu
Follow up and monitoring committee	3 Persons	Shahin, Rouf, Apollo
Report Writing	2 Persons	Rouf, Moven

### 3.1 Pre-works of Relief Distribution

There were pre-works before relief distribution like beneficiaries' selection & validation, quotation collection, vendor selection, purchase order placement, invitation local government people etc. which were done by different committees successfully. Vendors were selected for each categories and placed order according to the requirements said earlier. Token slips were made for each category which ensured validation while distributing relief and rehabilitation materials to the targeted beneficiaries.



### 3.2 Relief Distribution

Relief and rehabilitations materials were distributed on 6 September which was inaugurated by Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Birganj with presence of country director of SFB. This event was organized on the field of Birganj Degree College. The summary of distribution is as follow:



#### House Repair Support

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Corrugated Color tin (8')	142	Piece
Corrugated tin 170 mm (7')	250	Piece
Corrugated tin 190 mm (7')	640	Piece
Concrete pillar (10')	319	Piece

**Need based distributed among 50 Santal Household**

#### Employment and Seedling Production\*

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Vegetable Seeds and materials	180	Pack
Time	20	Day
Labors	10	Person

**Eight females and two males are working for producing 120,000 Seedlings**



#### Food & health hygiene Support

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Rice	1600	Kg
Dall	400	Kg
Edible oil	400	Litter
Salt	400	Kg
Potato	1200	Kg
Oral-saline	2000	Pack
Soap	400	Nos.

**Equally distributed among 400 Santal Household**

#### Educational Material Support

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Note Book	300	Piece
Pen	600	Piece
Pencil	200	Piece
Eraser	100	Piece
File	100	Piece
Sharpener	100	Piece

**Equally distributed among 100 Santal Students**



#### Tube well Platform Support

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Tube well Platform Development	10	Nos.

**Equally distributed among 10 Santal Household from 10 clusters**

#### Eco-friendly Oven Support

Name of support	Total Quantity	Unit
Improved eco-friendly Over	10	Nos.

**Equally distributed among 10 Santal Household from 10 clusters**



**\*Update Nov 2017:** It was planned create work opportunity for 20 days but it goes 36 days for 10 labors and additional 10 days for 2 labors. The ultimate seedling production was 62,500. A total 215 farers got seedling support from here. Most to them got free of cost, some got with partial cost. They also sold some seedling to resourceful farmers and institutes and earned BDT 74,000. The money are reserved to them and will be reinvested for their further development.

### 3.3 Budget Expense

The total budget was expended judiciously according to the support strategy and procurement policy of SFB. Account and finance department documented all reverent bills and vouchers for further audit. The funded USD 10,000 was received. The following table shows the expenses summary briefly-

Sl. No	Items Distributed	Total Expenses (BDT) (up to end of the project)
1	Corrugated iron sheets and Pillar	389,680.00
2	Food	203,600.00
3	Education Materials	14,900.00
4	Tube well platform development	55,000.00
5	Eco friendly oven	16,000.00
6	Seed	33,400.00
6.1	Labor	35,400.00
6.2	Polythene sheet	4,200.00
6.3	Bamboo	2,240.00
6.4	Tube well, Water cane, land preparation, Fertilizers, Pesticides etc	9,760.00
7	Banner & Printing	2,240.00
8	Stationeries (Color Paper, etc)	431.00
9	Decoration	3,000.00
10	Other (Local Transportation)	850.00
	<b>Total without VAT</b>	<b>770,701.00</b>
	VAT (5%)	<b>35,629.00</b>
	<b>Total with VAT</b>	<b>806,330.00</b>
	Budget	<b>800,000.00</b>



## 4 Next Steps

Some emergency supports have been completed but the works for long term supports are continuing till the final distribution of seedling. In this respect SFB has some plan as follows-

### 4.1 Monitoring and Distribution of Seedling

Since it has created some employments for 10 labors (2 male and 8 female) for 20 days aimed to produce seedling under an entrepreneur, SFB's implementation team will continuously follow up and monitor the actions. Mainly field staffs and assigned persons for SASC Project will responsible to take care and support the entrepreneur. After growing the seedling, they will develop a mechanism to distribute seedling.



### 4.2 Impact and Case Study

A simple sample survey will be conducted to understand the impact and to determine the post support for them. It will also collect some cases and story for documentation and improving strategy of SASC project.



### 4.3 Financial Audit

Within two months of relief and rehabilitation materials distribution, SFB will engage an external audit firm to conduct financial audit. After that SFB will submit the audit report to the NGOAB which was precondition of the approval the project.

Photo album



The wall of this house was made by mud and ruined after the flood

A part of a Santal community's people waiting for relief and rehabilitation support from SFB



Receiving house repairing materials in presence of Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Birganj, Dinajpur



On the way to home  
with improved eco-  
friendly oven

Happiness after getting  
educational materials



Carrying Food and  
health hygiene  
material





## Impact on Emergency Flood Response Program

### Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh

November 2017

This report shows the example of impact of the supports for flood affected santal community by Syngenta Foundation Bangladesh. It also shows the status of ongoing works like seedling production, distribution and employment creation which was not completed during above presented report by September 2017.

## TURNAROUND STORIES OF FLOOD AFFECTED PEOPLE

Life never stops. Some clogs may block the way of life. But it is not forever. The scenario of Uttar Sujalpur village before two months ago and now is far difference. Two months ago, the santals male and females sat beside their ruined house with frustration and hunger. Flood in August 2017 destroyed houses, damaged the crops, took away the life of livestock etc. of santal community of Dinajpur district along with country wide Bangladesh. They had no works, no food and no savings to pass the days. The children were crying for food, no shades over their head except sky. They thought that they will not be able to rebuild their house within at least six months. They were just thinking for food and selling whatever they had with them.

But now in November 2017, all of the santals are under a shade made by corrugated tin, even better they had before the flood. They all are too busy with their daily works. The students are going to school with new books, khata and pencil. They acknowledge the extended hands of Syngenta Foundation for their quick recovery after flood shock.

### Fulmoni Tudu, around 60 years old lady was explaining her way-out story form the flood-

“ We are four in our family and my son is the only one earing member. We have no land or capital except this hut. My daughter-in-law is a patient and she need some medicine every day. My son is a day labor and we live from hand to mouth. The flood destroyed everything; it did not show mercies even on my house (she weeps). We passed our days under the open sky. We thought, it will not possible for us to rebuild this house within a year.

God blessed us. Syngenta Foundation extended their hands as an angel. We got corrugated tin and other housing material along with food and health hygiene supports. I cannot but say that we cooked food only one time a day to pass some more days with those food. We rebuild our house and replaced the mud maid wall with tin. Now it is shinny and safe place for us. We are very much happy that Syngenta Foundation is working for us, and you people are asking about our happiness and sad story (her smile knows no bound).”



**FRUSTRATED** Fulmoni Tudu (60), in front of her destroyed house in August 2017



**SMILED** Fulmoni Tudu (60), in front of her new house in November 2017

## FLOOD SUPPORT DESIGNED FOR LONG-TERM BENEFIT CREATES SUSTAINABLE IMPACT FOR SANTAL COMMUNITY



Syngenta foundation Bangladesh (SFB) designed two types of supports for the flood affected santal people like- emergency supports and long-term supports. The emergency supports created immediate impact like free hunger, shelter, save from diseases, school continuation etc. But the long term supports created impact is continuing till date.

SFB revealed that the land less day labors were the most vulnerable among the flood affected people of santal community. After flood they were totally jobless and no way to earn money within a month. So, one-time food support was not enough for them to survive. They need some daily jobs. Besides, the flood affected small holders who wanted to restart their agriculture had no seedling and enough money as well for vegetable cultivation. So, SFB designed the support in such a way that the most vulnerable 10 days labor can work for producing seedling and get daily payment. A local entrepreneur (from SASC project) may take care of this and also charge of his cost. After producing these seedling, they can distribute these seedling among the poor and flood affected small holders. They may also sell among the other people who want to buy.

Impact	
Employment creation	: 380 Man-days
Core benefited	: 10 Laborers
Seedling support	: 215 Farmers
Seedling produced	: 62,500 Pics
Vegetable cultivation	: 625 Acre
Employment value	: 57,000 BDT
Seedling value	: 81,300 BDT
Revolving seed-money	: 74,000 BDT

SFB allocated budget BDT 85,000 for this task. According to plan they supposed to work for 20 days but ultimately these 10 day-labors worked there for 36 days and the 2 labors with local entrepreneur worked more 10 days for producing 62,500 vegetable seedlings. These seedlings were distributed among 215 vegetable farmers with free of cost, partial cost and full cost. They earned BDT 74,000 by selling some seedling. This earned amount (BDT 74,000) will be reinvested for vegetable cultivation by these 10 labors as a unit. It will create employment and

profit for them. They feel that this seed money will bring them out of poverty and will be a farmer than a day-labor soon.

*“We could not feed our children anymore if we did not get this opportunity to work. Now we are united and planning to take lease land for cultivating vegetable. We will take care of this filed ourselves along with our day-labor in others agricultural filed and brick field. We hope one day we will work in our field only, not others”*- expressing together Aroti Shoren, Luxmi Hashda and their co-worker.