

An Appeal To Support Relief Efforts In Gujarat Following The Disastrous Earthquake

As you all know, a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale rocked the state of Gujarat in India on the morning of January 26. The catastrophic quake has left tens of thousands of people dead, with official estimates of the dead already around 25,000. The aftershocks have caused cracks in ninety percent of the buildings in the city of Bhuj, making them dangerous to live in.

It is difficult to relate to the scale of misery being experienced by thousands who were injured and the now millions of homeless survivors. AID is raising funds in the US to support the ongoing relief efforts. An appeal for support from SEWA, an NGO in Gujarat with which AID has collaborated on an earlier project, along with a detailed relief budget, is available at the website <http://www.aidindia.org/gujarat>.



Relief workers search the rubble for survivors.

AID is accepting donations to support the earthquake relief efforts in India. *100% of the funds collected by AID will be sent directly to the affected areas.* AID will achieve this by sending your contributions to grassroots voluntary organizations in Gujarat with which it has been already associated in developmental efforts with great success. Through AID projects, we have established a good rapport with these organizations and are fully confident that your contributions will be effectively utilized for relief efforts. You CAN make a difference. You can mail your donation check to the AID postal address given overleaf. Please write "Gujarat Earthquake relief" in the check. For further information regarding the Gujarat earthquake relief efforts, please contact AID at: Phone: 301-422-2232, 301-422-7765 & Email: rajeevnpn@wam.umd.edu. You can also donate through a credit card. Please see the website www.aidindia.org/gujarat for more details.



More than ninety percent of the buildings in Bhuj have developed cracks and have become dangerous to live in.

AID-India volunteers at the Panchgani National Conference

We traveled from Chennai, Bangalore, Gujarat, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and even Germany to meet at the National Conference on Human Rights, Globalization and the Law held at Panchgani (near Pune in Maharashtra) from the 26th to the 31st of December 2000. Our stall selling a variety of products including bamboo products and Ragi Sattva from ADS, BCT bags and greeting cards, AID T-shirts, NBA postcards, PHA literature, and the Pedal Power Generator (known as the "bijlee" bike), attracted plenty of curious visitors and

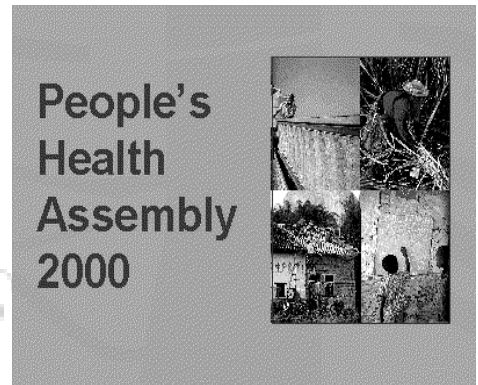
buyers. Further, many of those we met in the conference expressed an interest in volunteering for AID and interning in AID supported projects. Apart from having useful discussions amongst ourselves on our experiences and issues concerning the growth of AID in India, we also attended a few enlightening discussion sessions and films on displacement, the plight of commercial sex workers, dalit rights, primary healthcare etc.

--Pushpa Achanta, AID-Chennai.

People's Health Assembly – Report from Dhaka

The People's Health Assembly (PHA) was organized to remind world governments of a promise that was made in 1978 in Alma Ata. The promise "Health for All by 2000" remains unfulfilled, and the gains that were made earlier in health were actually reversed. The PHA is a fusion of people's movements and other non-government civil society organizations all over the world to reiterate this pledge and to make governments take this promise seriously. About 1300 people from 93 countries met at Dhaka between Dec 4 - 8, 2000, to highlight the role of globalization in the worsening the health status of people across the world. The major areas of discussion were:

- The poor everywhere had been affected badly by the globalization policy & multinational corporations (MNCs).
- **Does the World bank help?** The panel concluded that the World Bank was a profit-making organization along with IMF and WTO in spite of the bank representative's arguments otherwise.
- Each district drew up a local health charter that was adopted at the district convention. Based on these inputs from various countries (including India), the People's Health Charter was finalized/adopted, based on which action programs will be launched in various countries to fight for pro-poor health policies.



The post-assembly activities that are planned include worldwide dissemination of the People's charter on Health, publications of information through the analytical work and pre-assembly collection of people's stories, and the possibilities for coordinating work and strategies in follow-up meetings.

– Kalbna, AID-Chennai

News & Notes:

Public Hearing on SSP in Boston

“Jan Sunvai”, a public hearing about the controversial Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River, held by the Indian Students Association at MIT, Cambridge on December 2, 2000 drew more than 75 people. The group discussed the history and current developments in the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA). Shrinaath Chidambaram, an AID volunteer, was one of the panelists. Dr. Sanjeev Khagram, a senior advisor for policy and strategy on the World Commission on Dams (WCD) noted that the popular ideology of big dams being essential to development is grossly overstated. The NBA has inspired grassroots movements around the world and its questioning led the World Bank to do an independent and internal evaluation of all its dam projects. The hearing culminated with a discussion on the role that the South Asians expatriate can play in affirming people's rights.

AID-India Summer Volunteer Camp

Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (BCT) is constructing schools in the Haripuram village of Vishakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh. Would you like to assist in the construction? AID is organizing a summer camp from June 15 to August 15, to assist in this construction. The entire group of participants will depart from New York on the 12th of June, and return on the 18th of August. If you are ready to lend a hand for rural education and enjoy the natural beauty and village hospitality of Visakhapatnam district in the monsoon, then write to Nigamanth Sridhar at nigamanth@aidindia.org. For more details about the program, please see www.cis.ohio-state.edu/~nsridhar/AID/SummerCamp/

Mark Your Calendar:

- AID-Bay Area is organizing a fund-raiser concert by guitarist R. Prasanna on 14 April '01.

Email: info@aidindia.org

Phone: (301) 422 7765

Web: <http://www.aidindia.org>

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO AID

- By credit card, please call (301) 422 7765
- By check, please send in favor of AID to
**The Association for India's Development,
P.O. BOX 4801, Mountain View, CA 94040.**

AID relies solely on your contributions to fund community development projects in India. AID volunteers work hard to put funds to optimal use in project and awareness work. Every project is visited and monitored. All donors receive monthly updates of our projects and activities. To obtain a copy of the current financial statement please write to AID. Documents and information pertaining to AID can be obtained from the Secretary of State for the cost of copies and postage. Donations to AID are tax-exempt in US (Tax ID 52-1863480)