



22 September 2008

## **HSBC OPENS A SPECIAL BANK ACCOUNT FOR BIHAR RECONSTRUCTION**

**HSBC Mauritius joins hands with HSBC India in supporting the reconstruction work in the state of Bihar.**

The State of Bihar in India has been hit by the worst flood in the last 50 years, which has affected 417 villages and displaced around 3 million people. HSBC in India has been working closely with Goonj, a charity already present in Bihar for the last 10 years to urgently donate required materials to victims in relief camps, where our Indian colleagues are able to donate materials like food and clothing required immediately to relief the millions of displaced people.

A substantial investment is required to rebuild the lives of the survivors of the Bihar floods. HSBC Mauritius is joining hands to contribute in our small way to help towards the reconstruction of the houses and livelihood millions of people whose lives have been destroyed by this calamity. In order to collect the contributions of the many Mauritians, the Bank has established the below mentioned dedicated account to accept donations from its employees, customers and the public in general.

**HSBC BIHAR RECONSTRUCTION FUND: 001 - 030485 006**

**Funds up to MUR 100,000 collected in our account will be matched by HSBC Mauritius.**

The collected funds will be deployed towards the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts - directed towards supporting health facilities, providing water & sanitation facilities, child protection, environmental causes, etc in the affected areas.

**Insert title here/2**

So that the impact of such contributions can be tracked effectively over time, our Indian colleagues - who have experience of such action since the 2006 Tsunami – are busy selecting an NGO to ensure proper deployment of funds raised. Gautam Mukharya, Head of Credit & Risk Management, HSBC Mauritius, is working closely with our Indian colleagues in selecting the right NGO where the proceeds of the collection from HSBC India & Mauritius will be utilized.

Sandeep Uppal, CEO HSBC Mauritius comments on the action undertaken: “The floods in Bihar have impacted the livelihood of millions and I encourage all to assist in the reconstruction process”.

We know the strong connection that exists between Mauritius and Bihar and we trust that many Mauritians will contribute in a big way towards this cause.

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### **Notes to editors**

#### **1. HSBC Bank Mauritius**

In Mauritius, the HSBC Group offers an extensive range of financial services through a network of 11 branches and offices. These services include personal and commercial financial services, financial planning, trade finance, treasury and financial markets, payments and cash management and securities custody.

#### **2. Floods in Bihar**

Bihar has been hit by the worst flood in the last 50 years displacing some 3 million people. Districts of Supaul, Saharsa, Araria and Madhepura are amongst the worst-hit in the state and victims from the 417 villages affected are in urgent need of relief.

#### **3. Goonj**

Goonj has been operating in Bihar for over decade and has a wide network of partner organisations and people present in most of the affected districts they are confident of reaching relief at the earliest possible time. HSBC has a good working relationship with Goonj, is familiar with their work and has worked with the organisation on successfully implementing several charity collection drives in multiple cities. Goonj has committed to send us regular updates and reports on utilisation of the donations.

<http://www.goonj.info/collection.php>

#### **4. Accounts**

The above mentioned HSBC account is besides the “Bihar Relief Fund account (001- 001 030477 006) operated by the Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit.

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