

30 January 2009

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

In September 2008, the State of Bihar in India was hit by the worst flood in the last 50 years, which affected 417 villages and displaced around 3 million people. A substantial investment was required to rebuild the lives of the survivors of the Bihar.

HSBC Mauritius joined hands with HSBC India to contribute towards the reconstruction of houses and livelihood the people whose lives have been destroyed by this calamity. An appeal was made and the customers and staff responded quickly and positively. The combined sum raised for this initiative by HSBC India and Mauritius aggregated **MUR 1,346,654. This included a sum of MUR 75, 000** collected from employees/ customers locally in a very short time (less than two weeks), and an equivalent contribution was provided by HSBC Mauritius, thereby resulting in an aggregate contribution of **MUR 150,000 by Mauritius.**

DEPLOYMENT OF FUNDS

The process of identification and selection of suitable NGOs and reconstruction projects has taken longer than anticipated, primarily because the situation in Bihar has been quite unique in terms of the nature and scale of the problem due to which even till today relief work continues to be carried out. It will take a long time before the situation stabilises for reconstruction work to begin. In fact, the need of the hour is relief from the harsh Bihar winters. In light of the above situation in Bihar, HSBC India and HSBC Mauritius decided to donate the sum raised to a combination of relief and rehabilitation initiatives to the following NGOs chosen by the bank:

1. Samajik Shaikshanik Vikas Kendra (SSVK)

Grant: MUR 528,660.

Project: Income generation for former agricultural labourers who lost their livelihood due to floods; and set up three child care centres to provide education and psycho-social

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support to help them cope with emotional trauma.

Impact: 227 families and 300 children in Madhepura district.

2. AID India

Grant: MUR 408,997.

Project: Provision of winter kits and conducting medical camps in three districts - Madhepura, Supaul and Saharsa to people not covered by government relief efforts.

Impact: 3,000 families from winter kits and 12,000 people from medical camps.

3. Nikhar Gramin Vikas Sansthan (NGVS)

Grant: MUR 408,997.

Project: Provide winter kits (blankets and mosquito nets) to families in Purnea at a rough cost of Rs 450 per family.

Impact: 1,377 families

We sincerely wish to thank all who contributed in making this initiative a success!

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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. AID-India's work in Bihar

About 15 years ago, group of Indian graduate students in the University of Maryland College Park, USA, had heated debates about the best ways to help to help the poor in villages in India. From these discussions grew the Association for India's Development (AID) in 1991.

More on AID-India: <http://www.eurekachild.org/biharflood/>

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