



EU provides relief for new victims of Assam-Nagaland border clashes

New Delhi, 13th October, 2014: The European Union has released over ₹19 million (€250 000) to support the immediate needs of people recently displaced in the northeastern state of Assam following ethnic clashes. The funds will provide food assistance, emergency shelter and water and sanitation services to over 3,000 people living in five relief camps in Golaghat district, and to some 500 other families that have returned to their villages after having suffered a significant loss of household assets.

In August, a long standing border dispute on the Assam-Nagaland border escalated, causing the initial displacement of more than 10,000 people, the destruction of over 700 homes and the loss of key livelihood assets. The prevailing insecurity still hampers the return of some communities.

The EU-funded relief efforts aim to improve the lives of conflict affected people and help them cope with the upcoming winter. Women and children are particularly vulnerable; this humanitarian action will distribute cash grants to allow women to purchase food and other urgent household essentials to meet the basic needs of their families.

The project is being funded by the Small Scale Response mechanism of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO). It will be implemented by ECHO's partner Mercy Corps, which has already carried out several relief and disaster preparedness activities in Assam since 2007.

Background

Recurring violence in various districts of Assam, fueled by political and ethnic tensions, has periodically displaced thousands of people, mostly vulnerable and marginalised communities. Tensions have long simmered over land rights. The latest outbreak of violence erupted in August 2014, following the abduction of two Adivasi youths, resulting in clashes which have left 15 people dead and ten thousand displaced.

ECHO's Small Scale Response fund is a global mechanism totaling € 5.5 million for 2014, which allows ECHO to provide rapid funding of up to € 300 000 for humanitarian aid in countries affected by natural and man-made disasters.

For more Information:

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO):
<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

The European Union's Delegation to India: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/index_en.htm

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