



PRESS RELEASE

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GFC Awards Emergency Grants to Partners in Bangladesh and Nepal

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23, 2007 — The Global Fund for Children (GFC) today awarded \$6,500 in emergency grants to three of its grantee partners in Bangladesh and Nepal that are engaged in continuing relief efforts due to the flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains.

This year's monsoons have caused unprecedented human suffering in Nepal; for many villages, it has been the worst flood in 25 years. In Bangladesh, more than 536 people have died from drowning, water-related disease, and snakebites, while an additional 68,000 have been hospitalized.

“Our response to disasters is informed by the assessment of our grantee partners working in the local communities,” said Maya Ajmera, president and founder of GFC. “They know how to best respond and we are always ready to support their relief and recovery efforts.”

Two GFC grantee partners in Bangladesh were given \$2,500 in emergency grants each, and the third, in Nepal, was given \$1,500. They are Phulki (Spark) and Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (SSS or Village Self-Reliance), both based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the Backward Society Education (BASE) in Kailali, Nepal.

In Nepal, BASE will provide relief supplies to 250 students and their families in the western part of the country. Phulki will use its grants to provide such relief supplies as dry food, clothes, emergency medicines and oral rehydration salts to victims in Dhaka. SSS will provide relief supplies to flood victims in northern Bangladesh, particularly in the Natore district, where 33,785 families are affected.

“One of our main concerns now is the spread of infection because the affected areas are densely populated and the numbers infected can become extremely high,” said A. H. M. Rezwana, director of SSS, in an email. “Another is the scarcity of safe drinking water. Drinking water sources remain contaminated even in areas where floods have started to recede.”

Since 1997, when it made its first grants worth \$3,100, The Global Fund for Children has given 1,421 grants valued at more than \$7.6 million to 279 community-based organizations in 65 countries.