



North India & Afghanistan

## BRIDGE-BUILDING UPDATES!

Catch up on our last few ones

Oct – Nov, 2017

While warring parties use violence as a means of promoting their cause, at URI, “We unite to use our combined resources for non-violent, compassionate action, to awaken our deepest truths, and to manifest love and justice among all life in our Earth community.”

Within URI, we are a community of people of widely different experiences and beliefs, who engage our differences in constructive ways so that we might discover truths previously unknown to us. By refusing to participate in the division being encouraged in the world around us, but rather by engaging in dialogue around our differences and disagreements, we are offering the world an alternative to violent conflict, and a pathway to peace, justice, and healing.

- The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr.  
Executive Director, URI

*At United Religions Initiative North India and Afghanistan, we believe in creating pathways to Peace, Justice and healing for all human beings and earth. Therefore, our bridge building initiatives as shared below would also like to share some of the spaces that got created and nourished for symbiotic growth, development of all and cultures of peace*

## Flood Relief Assistance for Purnea, Bihar

***“Help not because you have a lot, but because you know what it feels like to have nothing”***

The state of Bihar faced 514 deaths, over 8.5 lakh people have lost their homes and more than 1.7 crore people spread across 19 districts had been adversely affected by the flood in 2017.

During the occasions of International Day of Peace and Gandhi Jayanti, United Religions Initiative, North India and Afghanistan along with G3S Foundation CC, U-Day Festival team, Samvaad CC, Sangrur CC, Patiala CC, Dwarka Peace Society CC, Tronica City CC and Patiala CC organized a flood relief assistance camp for the flood-affected district of Purnea division in Bihar.

A professional disaster management team was assigned to train the general public on disaster management and first aid. The training attracted huge attention of over 4000 people from the district because of its relevancy and chances of less injury and casualty at times of natural calamity. They were trained to provide assistance with their in hand resources during such events.





People who were mostly effected and in need of basic assistance in Purnea were provided with blankets, first aid medicines, torches, candles, and food. The team were also able to distribute medicines and torches to certain other districts of Bihar.



During October 2017, we came to learn that our tiny act of kindness did not only lightened certain darkness caused by the flood but in certain ways, united them to overcome such challenges together and to see them sharing the resources with each other left us speechless. It is for this reason we would like to specially thank Mrs Lakshmi Bhatia, Mr Amit Sethi, Dr. Salim Mohammad, C.A Gagan Kumar, Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Mr Manu Singh, Mr Mahinderpal , Mrs Divya Tyagi , Mr Deepak Kumar , Mr Anil kumar, Priyanshu Raj Shah, our trainers Jyoti Ranjan Mahapatra and Bisworanjan Kunar for their extensive support and cooperation. It would not have been possible, if it wasn't for them.



# An Act of Kindness



“Our kids were falling sick because of the increasing cold and by sitting on the floor studying, we dint know what to do without any resources”

- **G3S Foundation CC**

Salwan Public School in Loni Ghaziabad, graciously supported our member organizations during this winter with four hundred units of furniture. The furniture were distributed among Love Care Foundation CC, G3S Foundation CC, Mahila Chetna Kendra CC, Inspiration Organization , Prayas CC, Dwarka Peace Society CC and Choti Si Khushi CC who are dedicated to providing education to underprivileged street children, specially abled kids and women from most neglected areas.

Knowing that most of the kids in these organizations used to sit on the floor, they now have their own chairs and desks to study and stay away from getting cold. One of the concerns for these organizations was to provide their kids with proper chairs and desks to study and with the tangible assistance made by the Salwan Public School, they are now ahead of their certain challenges and constraints.

We send our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Divya Tyagi, Tronica City CC who made this possible through her constant endeavor in social work and providing the kids with facilities they could now avail to comfortably study, we would also like to extend sincere thanks to Mr. Mahinder Pal from Dwarka Peace Society CC and the Logistics staff department of the school for their extensive hard work in managing the logistics an transport of the furniture.



*For more stories like these and the on-going work of our members you could also have a look at:*

- [www.khwaesh.wordpress.com](http://www.khwaesh.wordpress.com)
- [www.facebook.com/uri.northindia.afghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/uri.northindia.afghanistan)

# Global Spotlight

We have more for you this Christmas by our global community!



In the last two years, we've gathered feedback from dozens of members of the URI global community about what is needed for an online platform. Thanks to the time and insights shared by many. We now have a new website that organizes all the information from our previous site in a more user-friendly way. Check it out at

[www.uri.org](http://www.uri.org)

Head over there and try the new features:

1. Find your Cooperation Circle on the site and check out the profiles of a few other groups.
2. Is all the information there accurate? Your group's name, your action areas, your membership, traditions, location, website, etc?
3. Do you have a different picture that you'd like connected to your group's profile?
4. Try contacting yourself! Fill it out with a test message. If it doesn't reach your contact people, let us know!

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**Want to know our yearlong engagements?**

**Stay tuned for our bi-annual newsletter coming up soon!**