

It just kept raining

After three months villagers are slowly returning to a village in Satkhira district, south west Bangladesh, following floods in which three people died. During that time, many families have been camping out on embankments beside the busy road.

The village is reached from the main road by an uneven and slippery brick path. Carts, pulled by the male villagers, carry goods along the path which looks out over vast areas of water. The shrimp farm ponds are getting back to business with the night watchman's huts occupied. Other areas had been paddy fields but had not yet been replanted. People wash their shoes and plates in the flood water as there is no access to clean water from the village pump. The school was on higher ground and seemed to have come through with only minor damage. A rickety bamboo bridge leads to the main part of the village.



Jowser Ali Sarder's home used to be at the end of the village but that is still completely under water. He used to work as a daily labourer but, at present he is busy building a new home for himself and his wife. His two grown up children live away from this area now. He has not been able to take anything from his old home yet but hopes he will find some things that are salvageable.

"It just kept on raining," he said. With the waters rising to between 2-3 feet he received emergency rations from Shushilan, which were a life saver. The months on the embankment have not been kind to Jowser, with very little food he is painfully thin. As the weeks progress, Sushilan will organise the villagers into a forum and help them with ways to minimise the effects of disasters, as they have done in other areas. A little help goes a long way.

IMAGE© Commitment for Life: Jowser Ali Sarder