

SMILE REPORT

Relief & Rehabilitation Work

Assam



SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER
2025





INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Over the summer of 2025 Assam saw an aggressive, widely reported wave of eviction operations that cleared tens of thousands of bighas of land, demolished thousands of homes and shops, and left scores of families, many from erosion-prone and Muslim minority communities, suddenly homeless or displaced. The eviction operation, aimed at clearing alleged encroachments on Paikan Reserve Forest land, reportedly went ahead in violation of an interim order issued by the Gauhati High Court on July 11, 2025.

The massive demolition drive left hundreds of families displaced, their homes reduced to rubble within hours and their lives thrown into uncertainty. Victims recounted the sudden arrival of dozens of JCBs, the absence of prior notice, and the loss of not just their houses, but cherished belongings, documents, and the basic means to live with dignity.

Amid scorching heat and makeshift shelters, residents—men, women, and children—struggled to survive while asserting their identity and questioning the legality and fairness of the government's actions. The victims of the demolition claimed that ***“around 70-80 JCBs came crashing into their houses without them giving proper time to vacate.”***

During the Paikan village eviction on July 12, 2025, tragedy struck when 60-year-old Anaruddin suffered a fatal heart attack as officials bulldozed his home. In a separate incident, another resident, overwhelmed by the eviction, allegedly attempted suicide but was saved by a family member and taken to hospital.



EVICIONS IN GOALPARA

On July 12, 2025, the Goalpara district administration carried out a large-scale eviction in Bidyapara and Betbari under Paikan village, Krishnai Forest Range, **displacing nearly 1,100 Muslim families** who had lived in the area for generations. The drive, aimed at removing alleged encroachments on Paikan Reserve Forest land, went ahead despite an interim order from the Gauhati High Court a day earlier, which had instructed the authorities to ensure temporary shelter, food, and accommodation until proper rehabilitation was arranged.

As a result, **between 5,500 and 6,600 people were left homeless**, based on average family size estimates. Those affected belong entirely to the 'Deshi' Muslim community, recognized as an indigenous group in Assam. Officials stated that around 1,038 bighas of land were cleared to make way for a bamboo plantation.



EVICIONS IN NALBARI

On June 30, 2025, the Nalbari district administration **removed 93 Bengali-origin Muslim families** from Bakrikuchi village under the Barkhetry Revenue Circle, leaving them homeless. Officials alleged the families were encroaching on government land. Deputy Commissioner Nibedan Das Patowary said the drive was conducted to clear around 453 bighas of village grazing reserve (VGR) land in the area.



EVICIONS IN LAKHIMPUR

On July 3, 2025, authorities in Lakhimpur district carried out an eviction drive to clear alleged encroachments on Village Grazing Reserve (VGR) land across four sites—Debera, Doloni, Siringsuk, Dhakuakhonia, and Raang Chali. The operation reclaimed roughly 235 bighas (around 78 acres) of land and **displaced about 220 families**. **Among those affected were 21 indigenous households, while the majority were Muslim families,** both Bengali- and Assamese-speaking.



EVICIONS IN DHUBRI

On July 8, 2025, the Assam government carried out one of its largest single-day eviction operations, **removing an estimated 2,000–3,000 Bengali-origin Muslim families** from the villages of Sontoshpur, Chirakuti, and Charua Bakhra under the Chapar revenue circle of Dhubri district. **Nearly 4,000 bighas of land** were cleared in the drive, which officials said was meant to make way for a solar power project by the Adani Group. The move **rendered about 20,000 people homeless**—families who had been living there for four to five decades, many of them originally displaced by Brahmaputra floods and erosion.

INTERVENTION BY MILES2SMILE

While the world remained preoccupied with debates over who was right and who was wrong, Miles2Smile journeyed through the cities and reached Assam to hear the anguished voices of those left behind by the evictions.

At Miles2Smile, we hold the trust of our supporters with the highest regard. Whenever a tragedy unfolds, our first step is to carefully examine the situation, hear the cries of the survivors, and extend our support. The relief work in Assam was one such instance.

What we witnessed and documented was nothing short of unprovoked hatred, ruthless demolitions, and irreparable acts of injustice. Through this press release, we seek to highlight the profound toll these demolitions have taken on the lives of the survivors.



Miles2Smile spent a week in the camp of the survivors, witnessed their fret, and listened to their cries. With the assistance of our donors, we were able to :

Construct Washroom & Bathroom

After the evictions, families were forced to live in open fields and temporary camps with no access to toilets. Women, children, and elderly people faced serious health risks and loss of privacy. Miles2Smile identified sanitation as an immediate need. **With the support of donors, 16 washrooms were constructed near the survivor camps.** These washrooms provided basic dignity, especially for women and girls, who earlier had to wait till dark to relieve themselves. The lack of toilets had already led to infections and discomfort. The construction of washrooms reduced health risks and restored a small but crucial sense of safety and dignity for displaced families.



Provide Clean Water

Access to clean drinking water became a major challenge after the demolitions. Families were forced to rely on unsafe water sources, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases. Miles2Smile arranged a clean water supply for the displaced families living in camps. Safe drinking water was provided for daily consumption, cooking, and basic hygiene.

Conduct Menstrual Health Camp

The evictions placed women and adolescent girls under severe physical and emotional strain, with no access to safe menstrual hygiene facilities or supplies. Miles2Smile organised a menstrual health camp inside the survivor settlement to address this urgent need. Sanitary pads were distributed, and women were given space to speak openly about health concerns related to menstruation. Many shared that they had been forced to manage their periods without proper materials after losing their homes. The camp helped reduce discomfort, health risks, and shame associated with menstruation in crisis conditions.



Provide Tarpaulin Sheets

When homes were demolished, families were left without any shelter under the open sky. Many used broken tin sheets or plastic scraps to protect themselves from heat and rain. **Miles2Smile distributed 500 tarpaulin sheets** to help families build temporary shelters. These sheets became roofs, walls, and ground covers for people trying to survive in extreme conditions. Though basic, they provided protection from sun, rain, and wind.



Smile Stories



“Our House Was Razed in an Hour”

Anjum’s Life After the Eviction

Anjum once lived in a house built brick by brick through years of hard work and sacrifice. Her house was razed in an hour. She stands outside a temporary shelter made of heavy tarpaulin, tied together with ropes and hope. The sheet traps heat during the day and offers little protection at night, but Anjum says the discomfort of the shelter is nothing compared to the damage the demolition has caused to her life.

“The government was there earlier too, so why didn’t they consider it illegal then? They never checked our papers, never looked at anything—just came and demolished it,”

Anjum said while talking to Miles2Smile.

The house she lost was more than a structure. It was where her children grew up, where family gatherings took place, and where memories passed down from her grandfather were preserved. Within hours, it was reduced to rubble under the label of ***“illegal encroachment.”***

Life after the eviction has been a daily struggle. Anjum explained that the absence of washrooms forced women to relieve themselves in the open, often before sunrise or after dark, exposing them to health risks and fear. Managing menstruation without privacy or basic facilities became another burden. The tarpaulin shelter, while offering some cover, turns unbearably hot and leaks during rain.

“Our grandfathers, our fathers—we all have documents. They should have checked those. We are Indians, not Bengali Muslims,”

Anjum said.

After listening to the perils of Anjum and several other women like her, Miles2Smile constructed washrooms near the settlement, giving women like Anjum access to basic sanitation, privacy, and safety. The organisation also provided tarpaulin sheets, which families used to build makeshift shelters after their homes were demolished. Though these efforts cannot replace a permanent home, they have reduced the immediate hardship of living in the open.

“We are happy that we have people who care about our well being. I am grateful to Miles2Smile for their care, love, and help,”

said Anjum.





“Nothing Was Left Standing”

Bahatun’s Account of the Eviction

The demolition drive shattered Bahatun’s life in a matter of hours. The house she had built slowly over the years was reduced to rubble, leaving her family with nothing but broken bricks and memories buried beneath them. **“We couldn’t do anything, couldn’t take out anything—not even the children’s books,”** she says. Along with the house, her children’s school materials, clothes, and documents were lost, pushing the family into sudden uncertainty.

Today, she survives under a makeshift cover. A torn trampoline sheet, given by members of the public, serves as her shelter. She eats whatever food people offer.

“When people don’t give me anything, I don’t eat. Nothing happens,” she says quietly, as if hunger has become routine.

Life after the eviction has stripped families of even basic necessities. Tarpaulin sheets are spread across open land, forming scattered shelters with no washrooms, bathing spaces, or access to clean drinking water. Women face the greatest hardship. Bahatun explains that the lack of toilets forces them to wait until early morning or late night to relieve themselves, exposing them to fear, illness, and humiliation.

The situation becomes even more unbearable during menstruation. With no washrooms or privacy, managing periods has turned into a daily struggle, affecting health and dignity. **“There is no washroom, no place to change,”** she says.

After listening to these concerns, Miles2Smile constructed washrooms near the settlement, giving women access to basic sanitation and privacy. The organisation also provided tarpaulin sheets to help families build temporary shelters. While these steps cannot replace what was lost, they have reduced the daily hardship of living in the open and offered a small measure of relief amid displacement.



How Miles2Smile Supported Shaharana After the Demolition

A single mother, Shaharana had been running her small shop with determination to make ends meet. Each night, she slept with the hope of earning again the next morning, focused on securing a better future for her son. That hope was shattered when she was jolted awake by the sound of a JCB. Within hours, her shop—her only source of income—was reduced to rubble.

“I managed to take out whatever I could from the shop, but most of the goods were destroyed in the demolition,” she said.

Beyond the loss of livelihood, Shaharana spoke of the stigma that followed.

“Why have we been called Bangladeshis? We are Indians,” she asserted. “According to the government, anyone who speaks Bengali is considered Bangladeshi,” she said, while talking to Miles2Smile.

Displacement brought new struggles. Living without a proper shelter or washroom made daily life difficult, especially during menstruation. Shaharana told Miles2Smile managing her periods without access to sanitary pads or privacy became painful and humiliating.

During this time, Miles2Smile organised a menstrual health camp at the settlement. Sanitary pads were distributed, and women were given space to speak about their health concerns. For Shaharana, the camp meant relief and dignity at a moment when she felt invisible. **“At least someone thought about us as women,”** she said, adding that the support helped her manage her health with some comfort amid loss and uncertainty.



“My Exams Were Going On”

How Miles2Smile Helped Abdl Halim Continue

Abdul Halim sat near a lake, close to the small hut his family had put together after their home was demolished.

His exams were underway when the bulldozers arrived.

Books, notebooks, and school papers were left behind as the house came down, leaving him with no place to study.

“My exams were going on,” he said.

“My books were inside the house. After that, I didn’t have anywhere to sit and read.”

For days, Abdul Halim tried to study in the open, under the sun or by the roadside.

“If it was too hot or if it rained, I had to stop,” he said.

“I couldn’t concentrate.”

Miles2Smile provided tarpaulin sheets to his family, which they used to put up a covered space beside their shelter.

“After that, I could sit under the sheet and study,”

Abdul Halim said, pointing to the shaded corner.

“It wasn’t a room, but at least I could read properly.”

For Abdul Halim, the tarpaulin became his study space, allowing him to continue his education despite the loss of his home.



X TWITTER WALL

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Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

The first batch of relief materials—500 high-quality tarpaulin sheets—has been dispatched to Assam, where thousands of families have been left homeless after their houses were demolished in a deeply communal manner. These sheets will provide some shelter to those forced to live under the open sky, their lives shaken and dignity stolen.

A second batch of relief—this time with tents, medicines, and other essentials—is being prepared and will be sent next month. Our hearts remain with the displaced families as we continue to stand by them in these testing times, ensuring they are not left alone in their pain.



0:54

8:07 PM · Aug 22, 2025 · 10.3K Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

We remained for about 4-5 hours, speaking to families, listening to their pain—until once again, the police arrived and forcibly drove us out. This is not just displacement. This is punishment. These families have done nothing to deserve such cruelty. The state has not only bulldozed their homes—it has bulldozed their rights, their dignity, their safety, their future. And it wants the world to look away while it does so. But we will not look away.



0:10

8:44 PM · Aug 28, 2025 · 2,410 Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

[donate.assam2smile.org](#)

Alhamdulillah, we have begun construction of much-needed washrooms and toilets in the Goalpara camps of Assam. A total of 32 sanitation units are being built—8 in each camp—to restore dignity and provide basic hygiene facilities to the displaced families. This week, we successfully completed the work in one camp, and insha'Allah, we aim to finish all units by next week.



2:39 PM · Aug 31, 2025 · 43.1K Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

In today's India, offering a hand to the oppressed feels like a crime. Wiping away someone's tears, bringing a smile to a broken face—even these simple acts of humanity are punished. I have seen this with my own eyes in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and now Assam. In the world's largest democracy, just being a Muslim feels like a burden—a constant struggle for dignity, safety, and the right to simply exist.



0:23

12:09 AM · Aug 30, 2025 · 33.8K Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

A woman—an ASHA worker—had recently died there due to a heartstroke. Her body had been taken away, and her space lay empty. I lay on that same bare floor, trying to comprehend what it meant to lose one's life not to war or accidents—but to systemic neglect and state cruelty. The place was unbearable. The silence was haunting. Every minute spent there felt like an indictment of everything our democracy claims to stand for.



1:06

8:54 PM · Aug 26, 2025 · 2,954 Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

During our visits, we met several students who are preparing for their board exams next year, yet are struggling deeply after losing their homes in the recent demolitions. Many have lost not only their shelter but also their study materials, access to learning spaces, and peace of mind. In response, we are setting up a library cum coaching center dedicated to these students—so they may have a quiet place to study, access to books and teachers, and the support they need to continue their education with hope and confidence.

These efforts—building toilets, supporting students, and restoring dignity—are only possible with your help.

Donate today: [donate.assam2smile.org](#)



0:34 PM · Aug 25, 2025 · 3,798 Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

[smile2smile.org/liberation/assam...](#)

Urgent: Assam Relief Appeal

They need us now more than ever. Over the past four years, hundreds of Muslim villages in Assam have been razed to the ground, leaving more than 50,000 families homeless and vulnerable. They have been uprooted, forced to survive in makeshift tents under unlivable conditions. It's a silent humanitarian crisis unfolding right before our eyes.

Our response so far -

- Alhamdulillah, [Smile2Smile](#) has stepped in with immediate relief efforts to restore safety, dignity, and hope. We are building 32 sanitation units across 8 camps with more than half already functional.

But the need is still overwhelming. Families urgently require:

- Durable tarpaulin sheets to shield them from rains and sun
- We are setting up "learning centres-cum-libraries" and providing them with essential stationery for hundreds of students, who have had their education disrupted and are preparing for their board exam, so that their education doesn't stop.
- Hygiene kits to go safeguard dignity for women
- Facilities for clean, drinkable water to ease the suffering of thousands
- Other essentials to make survival easier

This crisis is too big for us to respond to alone. We humbly ask you to join us, the limit of this cause is open. Every rupee you give will directly bring safety, dignity, and relief to a family in despair.

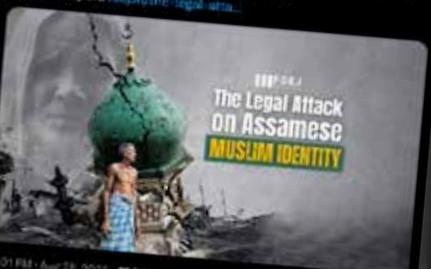
Open your heart. Donate today.

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

For any Indian state, it has become the easiest of tasks, to brand a muslim identity as illegal & demolish their homes, mosques & madrasas. All within the machinery of the secular, socialist & democratic constitution. What we witnessed at Assam was not just the failure of law & order or failure of one particular state. But a failure of the constitutional promise of the Republic of India.

Read this report: [post.in/the-legal-atta...](#)



10:01 PM · Aug 28, 2025 · 27.8K Views

Post

Asif Mujtaba @MujtabaAsif

In Assam's Goalpara district, near the Hasila Beel area, thousands of Muslim families have been rendered homeless following brutal state-led demolitions. What remains now are four makeshift camps with total 600 tents. It was a place that no human being should ever be forced to call home:

- 1Wahab Camp
- 2Near Jannatpur Camp
- 3Near Al Salam Hospital
- 4Near Hasila Gaon Panchayat

Our team visited these camps last week. What we witnessed was not just displacement—it was despair, abandonment, and the stripping away of human dignity.

Pic: [@Faahheda](#)



8:00 PM · Aug 29, 2025 · 36.7K Views

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Assam Relief Work

576

 *Smile Hours*

2500

 *Miles Covered*

550

 *Smiles Restored*



About the organization



The Miles2Smile Foundation, established almost six years ago, is committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors of mob lynching, communal violence, targeted demolition, and hate crimes. From responding to the crisis during the pandemic to its continuous work in education, creation of livelihood, relief and rehabilitation, and advocacy, the Foundation remains devoted to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.



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