

Report on Detailed Damage Assessment

Assessment Date: July 4, 2011

Districts visited: West Midnapore

Block: Daspur-II

Villages: Khukurdaha, Sripur, Jagathpur, Lakshyakundu, Kashinathpur, Kuchmari, Radhaballavchak and Khaschak

Government officials met:

- Panchayat level - Ms. Archana Bhunia (Pradhan-Ph.no. 9734550850), Mr. Jugal Bhunia (member)
- Block level - Mr. Modasser Molla (BDO)

District: None

NGOs met:

Kajla Jana Kalyan Samity (KJKS), Iswarchandra Memorial Educational Society,

Assessment Team Members:

Mr. Anjan Bag (Caritas India), Mr. Anjan Sengupta (IMSE), Mr. Ashutosh Biswas (SKC), Ms. Arpita Panda and Sandip Kumar De (KJKS), Mr. Surja Kumar Manna (IMES) and Mr. M.J. Raja (IAG)

Situation:

For the last 15-16 days, the villages (Khukurdaha, Sripur, Jagathpur, Lakshyakundu, Kashinathpur, Kuchmari, Radhaballavchak and Khaschak), except moderately affecting Kashinathpur, of Khukurdaha Panchayat has been inundated due to embankment breach in Kangshabati river leaving the villages seven to nine feet under flood water. Most of the affected people have been forced by the inundation to abandon their abodes. In other words, they are enslaved by water and poisonous snakes. Already four people have been bitten by venomous snakes. People including the Panchayat and Block officials raised serious concern that a minimum of three to four months will be required for the stagnant water to recede but the situation will be further worse if downpour occurs. Since being monsoon season, the poor are already facing crises situations, which are beyond their coping capacity. In faces of the poor the grim situation and apprehension was too conspicuous, to say the least.

For few days external support (rice, beaten/buffed rice, jaggery) given by the Panchayat and local NGOs (Ramakrishna Mission and Vodafone) is too meagre. As shared by the people food and fuel at their disposal is fast depleting day by day and drinking water is not at all available at hand for majority. Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) has distributed water pouches through Panchayat for a day or two but the mass has to depend on a few tube wells that are far flung and are accessible only through banana raft and/or country boat. For bathing people have no other means but to have it the flood water inviting all sorts of easily preventable diseases.

Add to their misery, the poor have lost their homes, total livelihoods and job opportunities, pushing their socio-economic conditions downturn and ripping off resilient power to bounce back. Looking at their circumstances, we can say that people are virtually imprisoned by the inundation limiting their mobility and survival, massive exodus is waiting to happen – some people have already gone out of their villages - within and outside the district for basic survival.

Information obtained from Panchayat:

1. Two Gram Panchayats Khukurdha and Goura are the worst affected among the 14 GPs of Daspur-II.
2. Loss of Life: 1 male person (Guchati village under Goura GP)
3. Snake bite: so far 4 people been bit by poisonous snakes
4. Name of the affected villages

Name of village	No. of families	No. of population
Khukurda	1100	3525
Sripur	620	2800
Jaganathpur	900	3215
Lakhyakundu	516	1512
Kasinathpur	1000	3789
Kuchamari	110	425
Radhaballavchalk	200	615
Khaschalk	90	218
Total	4536	16099

5. 95% of drinking water sources is fully damaged or submerged
6. Educational activities are paralysed in two GPs due to inundation and the details are as below:
 - 15 Primary School closed
 - 3 High schools
 - ICDS
 - MSK
 - 2 SSK
7. 2 Health Sub centres closed and not functioning
8. 2 speed boats and two country boats are pressed into services for ferrying villagers to and from GP
9. Relief assistance
 - Tarpaulin 1500
 - Rice 400 quintals (18 kg per families)
 - Bleaching powder 150kg

Information obtained from BDO:-

- Name of the affected GP – Khukurdaha and Goura
- Relief done so far: -
 - Tarpaulin 1500 pc
 - Rice 1000 quintals
 - Bleaching powder 150 kgs
 - Puffed rice 13 quintals

- Jaggery 4 quintals
- Baby food 50 kgs
- One medical team working
- Roads have been damaged in both the GPs
- House Building (HB) Grant (Rs. 10,000 for fully damaged houses and Rs. 2500 for partially damaged houses) may be available for house repairs after the water recedes

Estimated damage

House damage:

- Fully 1084
- Partly 1864

Agriculture loss:

- Crop (Seed bed) 50 hectares
- Vegetables 78 hectare
- Jute 3 hectares
- Flower 3 hectares
- Approximate amount of agriculture loss 70 lacks

Road damage:

- Pacca 10KM
- Moram 55 KM
- Kachha 20KM

Contact details:

1. Name of the BDO – Modasser Molla
2. Name of the BDMO – Suman Ghosh, Mob.- 8348527874
3. Name of the Sabhapati – Ashis Hutait, Mob. 9733332888

Sector wise Key Observations

Food:

- Scarcity of food is visible among large sections of affected people
- Majority have one square meal along with buffed rice
- Babies have no adequate and nutritious food

Recommendation:

- Provision of dry ration along with ready to eat food
- Provision of special food for babies, sick and the elderly

Shelter:

- Almost 80% houses have been submerged by flood water and 30% families are living in their own houses and rest has taken shelter in neighbors' houses making temporary *machan*
- Families whose houses water has not entered but surrounded are confined to the houses and have no space to move
- Some of the families are living in the tent on high land area
- No separate shelter for livestock rather they cohabit with human
- No fodder is available and stored ones are under water

Recommendation:

- Demand for tarpaulin is high despite Panchayat distributed inadequate as well as very poor quality tarpaulin
- Rebuilding houses as soon water recedes
- Provision of fodder for livestock

Water and Sanitation:

- Tube well is the main source of drinking water and 90% of the tube wells have been submerged in the inundation. Three or four tube wells are in high place and are functioning. 100% affected families depend on these tube wells for drinking water. On an average a family has to spend 1½ hours for collecting water through boats and banana rafts
- Practically no families are having safety measures system (Boiling, halogen tablets, and Sand Filter) for cleaning water. They are directly drinking from tube well which is enveloped by flood water.
- Most latrines facilities are under water and thus the affected population goes for open defecation.
- There are no bathing facilities; and practically all are bathing with flood water in open.

Key Recommendation:

- Provide Halogen Tablet, ORS packet
- Disinfection and repairing of existing of tube wells as soon as water recedes
- Building new sanitation facilities as soon as water recedes
- Training and sensitization on water purification for the community

Health and Hygiene:

- The visit of medical team is limited in the areas. As per Panchayat information one (1) medical team is functioning in the area however people have not confirmed the same.
- Sickness like fever, cold, dysentery/water borne diseases are mostly common among the children though men and women are getting affected slowly.

Recommendation:

- Provision of some first aid medicine to the people as soon as possible
- Setting up medical camps should be conducted as soon as water recedes
- Provision of carbolic acid pack to keep poisonous snakes away
- Provision dry ration along with baby food for control the nutrition status

Livelihood:

- Crops have totally submerged and damaged
- Cattle/Animals have been drowned in some villages. However it is seen that raised platform made for human settlement during flood used for cattle.
- Paddy seed beds totally damaged and the poor do not have alternative way out for their livelihood
- 100% vegetables and flowers fully damaged
- Fishes meant for domestic and commercial have been lost
- Fuel and fodder have been totally destroyed

Recommendation:

- Provide partly as well as fully support on difference short time yield seed for vegetable cultivation as the peoples very much aware about commercial vegetable cultivation as soon as water recedes.

Education:

- Education system totally dysfunctional because all Primary schools, High schools, MSK, SSK, ICDS centers are closed due to total inundation
- If schools remain to be shut, dropout rates will increase

Recommendation:

- Cleaning of school campus as soon as water recedes.
- Provide education kits to the student & teaching learning materials to the ICDS & Primary school as soon as water recedes.

Child Protection

- All schools (primary, MSK and High schools) are dysfunctional and indefinitely closed down because of inundation
- All ICDS are closed down
- Children just while away their time or dangerously wade in water risking their lives
- Children and differently abled persons are highly susceptible to snake bite
- Children are living with family members but are potential to abuse and trafficking

Recommendation:

- Engaging children in educational activities
- Advocating with government officials for resumption schooling

Conclusion:

The above recommendations given in sector wise are a must for immediate response to the ongoing humanitarian crises in this block. It is highly recommended that we should act right away to contain the further escalation of the problems that are pinching the people. If we do not intervene and address them then the problems will certainly multiply. And therefore the assessment team appeals to the State IAG – West Bengal to act as soon as possible.

- External support is urgently required at this stage, especially food, medicine and shelter
- Follow up with Panchayat and local NGOs for resuming alternative schooling and ICDS centres as soon as possible
- Regular monitoring of the situation and follow up with Panchayat and IAG members/other agencies working in the district