

## **Banaskantha Flood Impact**

### **Primary Overview**

From July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 the heavy rainfall affected several villages, blocks and towns and lakhs of people lost their lives and suffered damages to their homes, loss of crops and agricultural land only in Dhanera town and the villages of this block. Immediately after that the dams overflowed and were open, and the main Narmada canals broke due to the heavy water force from dams and the Banas river. The other part of the district blocks, Deesa block, Kankrej block, Thara, Bhabhar villages, which come into contact with the Banas river, were flooded and people had to run to save their lives.

Dhanera block is near the Rajasthan border, adjacent to the Jalor district. The river Rail meets the flows of the Jetpura Dam (Raniwada Tehsil) and Rauva Dam (in Sirohi) of Rajasthan in the village Runi, which suffered the greatest damage during these floods. On July 24<sup>th</sup> night, around 12 am, the speed of the river Rail reached a level which endangered the villages on its banks. The Rail River comes from the Rajasthan part of Sundha Chamunda hills (Arvalli mountain chain) and runs through the center of Dhanera town. This caused heavy damage which the city has not experienced over the past 70 years. Along its banks, the river washed away every village.

According to the Census 2011, the Banaskantha district has total Scheduled Caste population of 327460, with 58,813 households, 1,69,288 men, 1,58,172 women and 53,077 children younger than 6 (27,763 boys and 25,314 girls).

Dhanera block has a total number of households of 32390, with a total population of 201163, 104125 men, 97038 women, 36280 children below 6 (19257 boys and 17023 girls), with the Scheduled Castes population numbering 24332, (12526 men and 11806 women). (*Census Data source - <https://data.gov.in/catalog/villagetown-wise-primary-census-abstract-2011-gujarat>*)

### **Immediate need-based assessment/ observations**

- In Dhanera block more than 3000 houses have been damaged; among those more than 700 shelters belonged to Dalit families. Household amenities have been destroyed in all the houses.
- The team visited the Dalit Basti in Ladhapura (Dhanera town), where more than 250 families live and found that 50% of houses have been damaged and lost their groceries, grains, other home amenities and kitchen utensils, beddings etc. In most of the houses, the bedsheets were hanging out to dry in the open space, since there are no shelters. The families are still seeking the help to get drinking water, food grains and bedsheets. Three houses of the houses have had their gutters (nalia) and laminate roofs broken, making it impossible to live during the rain.
- Another area of Dhanera town visited was Belim Vaas Mohalla, where the Musla, Thakor and Luhar and other marginalized communities live. The local government officials have not yet visited this area and are not providing for the primary needs regularly. The people

had received some relief food packets and water bottles but not sufficient and not proportionate to the need or the mohalla's population. A total of 60 families have had their household amenities and goods washed out, and of them 10 houses have been completely destroyed. They facing the problems of shelter in this rainy time, and have been temporarily relocated to the Raj Mandir Plaza complex, near Belim Vaas Mohalla. In this mohalla alone, more than 60 children, 140 women and around 150 men have been affected by the floods.

- They require immediate help in grain, drinking water, home groceries, kitchen kits, tarpaulin, clothes, bedsheets and blankets. Along with these essentials, our observations indicate that they also need medicines, hygienic kits and buckets.
- In Dhanera, other parts of the town have also suffered damage, with total of 15-20 human deaths due to the high flow of the river through the town.
- We have also assessed the needs of the village Voda, 16 km from Dhanera. The village has a population of 1270 voters and around 400 households, with 60 Dalit families among them. Six houses have been totally destroyed and most of the households have lost their goods and their daily necessities. Around 100 animals (cows, buffalos, goats etc) died. Land is their only source of livelihood and 30 to 50 acres of agricultural land have been lost in the floods. Earlier, they used to cultivate groundnuts, bajra, and other crops, which now is impossible and they do not have any alternative livelihood option without land. They need tarpaulin, groceries and fire wood to be able to cook food.
- Another area assessed is the village Runi, 20 km away from Dhanera. With a population of around 3000 peoples of whom 50 families are Dalit, the village is considered to be the most affected in the floods. Among the village inhabitants, the majority of the Dalits and OBCs community living in the area surrounding the river bank have been affected and have had their agricultural land and ground water wells destroyed. At the time of the flood, more than 40 families lived by the river bank. During the night, they lost all their houses and also their agricultural land to the river. Babubhai Samthabhai Dabhi, one of the Dalit farmers who lived with his joint family, had 20 acres of land and 15 cows and buffalos. All of these have been lost. Their family and others around need shelter, groceries and other basic amenities.

### **Needs in Dhanera Block Proper**

In Dhanera there are 7 wards:

- 1 ward Dalit/Patel
- 2 ward Muslim/SC/ST
- 3 ward OBC
- 4-5 ward Dalit/Muslim/OBC

Primary Needs	Total Affected Families	Dalit & Other marginalized families	Dhanera	Area Name	Quantity
Grain Clothes for male, female and children; Bedsheets (plastic with blanket) Torch, Sanitary napkins for women and Slippers, Hygiene kit and tarpaulin  Kitchen Kits including Stave	All over town 20,000 families were affected		Town	-	-
“			“		
		1000 families Dalit & Muslims & OBCs	“	Ladhapura & Belim Vaas & Ambedkar Chowk	500 families (Dalit, OBCs & Muslims)
		250 families	“	Umiya Nagar	50
		200 families Dalit Muslims & OBCs	“	Shiv Nagar	200 families
		200 nomadic tribes (Vicharti Jaati) Turi barot and Thakor 60 families Relocated to Rajmandir Plaza, behind Nenava road	“	Sudamapuri & Suryanagar	200 families
		300 families Bhil, Bharathari	“	Bhil Vaas	200 families
		250 families; most need health kits with medicine	“	Valmiki Basti	250 families
		200 families	“	Dalit	100 families
		230 families	“	OBCs, SC & ST	111 families

- 60 families have been temporarily sheltered in Rajmandir Plaza, behind Nenava road (Turi barot, Valmiki and thakor)

- 500 families were sheltered to Vivekanand High School
  - More than 300 families in Trimurti Plaza
  - 200 families at the Circuit house
  - 100 families at Sarvodaya High School
  - 150 families at Maniben Hospital
- A total of 15-20 dead bodies were carried out by a brave Muslim leader, Ashrafbhai Gadlawala
  - We met our dalit community leaders that Chetanbhai Solanki, Sanjaybhai Sutaria, Viyat Solanki, Ambarsingh Bhati, Dalpatbhai Mochi, Vashrambhai Galchar, Pratapbhai Galchar, Ishvarbhai Parmar, Jayantibhai Solanki
  - Cash-doles have started being distributed by the Government in Dhanera town areas and villages through government teachers and government department staff
  - A meeting with Dhanera flood support team at Chetanbhai's home to further plan the roles and responsibilities for relief distribution, monitoring government relief services and providing other support to the flood victims took place on 29/7/2017 from 3.30 pm to 5 pm

### Village Level Immediate Need Assessment

Name of village	Types of Damages	Total Population of Village	Marginalised (SC, ST, NT DNT, OBC) Families	Affected Families
Gola	Most Damaged	3000 above	200 SC 150 ST	300 ST/SC 200 Other
Bhatib	Most damaged	1500	90 SC 50 ST	50 Families
Nani Dugdol	Most damage	600	30 SC 50 ST 15 NTDNT 100 OBC	50 Families
Shiya	Most damaged	3000	50 SC 40 ST 20 Minority 30 OBC	40 Families
Thavar	1000 Animals died Land degradation Home groceries			
Edal		1200	60 SC 20 ST 100 above OBC	60
Jadiya		1500	150 SC 100 ST 20 Muslims 100 OBC	100

			40 NTDNT	
Kuvarla		1000	50 SC 100 OBC	40
Hadata	Most affected	900	50 ST 100 SC	100
Nanuda		1000	80 SC 20 Minority	50
Alvada	Most affected	1200	150 SC 100 ST	200
Nenava		1000	150 SC 50 ST 30 NTDNT	50
Vasan/Eta	Most affected	900	60 SC 100 ST 20 Minority	150
Voda		1270	60 SC	60
Runi	(most affected)	4000	300 SC	300
Malotra		1000	200 SC 50 ST 20 Minority	50
Nanameda		500	70 SC 50 ST	40
Motabeda		2500	100 SC 15 ST	25
Pegiya				
Jadi		2000	100 SC 50 NTDNT 50 Minority	50
Dharnodhar			90 % ST	100
Lavara		2000	150 SC 100 OBC	50
Vinchhiwadi		500	80 SC 10 ST	15

Flood Monitoring and Acting Committees have been established and interventions have started. As the teams move, new data is added to that already available, so the number of families affected and the assessment of needs changes on a daily basis.