



# GUJARAT FLOODS 2017: IMMEDIATE RELIEF REPORT



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## Preface

In response to the crisis triggered by the floods which took place in Gujarat after the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017, HDRC collaborated with a number of civil society and not for profit organisation in providing immediate relief in the affected areas. The present report is a first attempt to put together the experiences we have had during the past 20 days, in the process of assessing the damages caused by the floods, working together to coordinate and distribute relief and planning the next steps to be taken. The report documents the key areas of assessment and intervention and draws on data shared by our various team members from the affected areas. It is meant to provide an overview.

As our teams are beginning to be involved in assessing the reach of relief interventions to marginalised communities, data regarding the extent of the loss of life, property and means of livelihood continues to come in. At the same time, loopholes in the long-term rehabilitation plans are emerging. These will be taken into account and included in a different report.

We are grateful for the support and solidarity we have received from all of you, members of the civil society, organisations working alongside, and contributors. We hope that we will continue to work together to ensure that the people affected by the floods are able to overcome this difficult period.

Ahmedabad

August 19, 2017

The heavy rains and floods in Gujarat which began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July, 2017 led to significant loss of life and destruction of houses and property and the loss of lives across the state. Not only rural Gujarat, but urban Gujarat, including mega cities were also highly affected by the heavy rainfall. It is estimated that approximately 4.5 lakhs of people from the state were affected by the floods, out of

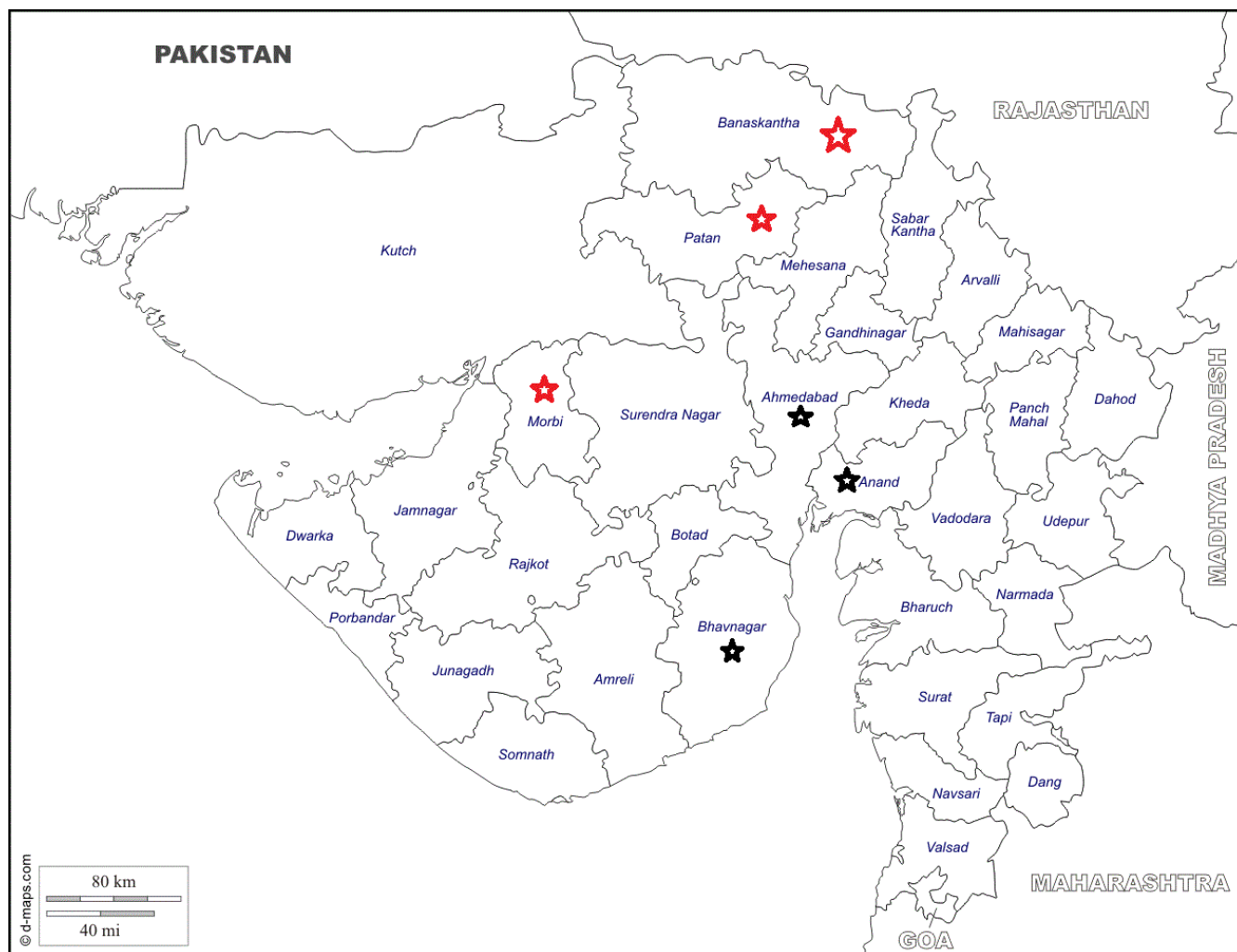


Figure 1: Gujarat map showing worst affected areas

whom 218 people lost their lives.

This is said to have been the worst Southwest Monsoon in the last 70 years. The worst affected districts were Banaskantha, Patan, Morbi, Sabarkantha, Anand and Ahmedabad, not all of which have yet been recognised by the state revenue department as ‘Disaster-Affected Areas’.

The state revenue department has declared Banaskantha and Patan as 'Disaster-Affected Areas' under the Gujarat State Disaster Management Act, 2003. The notification issued by joint secretary (relief) A J Shah will remain in force till August 15.



Figure 2: Damages to household goods

The reasons for the flooding in each area differ, and as a result so does the impact on the affected people. The interventions of HDRC in collaboration with other organisations have focused primarily on the affected areas in Banaskantha, where 8 of the total 12 Talukas within the district have suffered significant loss of life, property and agriculture land. Simultaneously, HDRC also focused on the urban Ahmedabad, in which water damage took place in a number of slums, and helped other institutions working in the Anand District.

### Flooding in Banaskantha



Figure 3: Loss of Housing

The map below provides an idea of the most severely affected Talukas in Banaskantha. It is important to note that the talukas are represented according to the 2011 Census, after which more Talukas were formed. Two out of these more recent talukas was affected by the floods, Suigam (from Vav) and Lakhni (Deesa -Tharad).



The river eroded agricultural land and carried off the top soil from Dhanera to **Vav** and **Tharad**, which were also flooded.

At the same time, the release of waters from the Sipu Dam into the Banas river flooded the villages along its banks, primarily in the **Deesa** Talukas and then in **Kankrej**.

Reports also suggest that delay in opening the dam gates led to damaging of the outlet channels from the dam in some villages.

### Flooding in Ahmedabad

While on the one hand the heavy rainfall led to waterlogging in slum areas in the city, at the same time the districts of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar were also on alert due to the Daroi dam releasing water into the Sabarmati river, which had already received water from the Narmada, and people from low lying areas had to be relocated.

## ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

The flood situation required an assessment of needs to determine what was the relief work required in Banaskantha and Ahmedabad. The assessment of needs took place in two stages: an immediate assessment, to determine what was the level of the damage and urgent requirements was undertaken as soon as it became possible to reach the affected areas. After the initial 2-3 days, once relief work began, ongoing assessment of needs was undertaken to determine the extent of loss of life and damage to property, to be able to coordinate the relief work.

### Banaskantha

HDRC has been working in the Banaskantha area in collaboration with the Banaskantha Dalit



*Figure 6: The overflowing of river waters due to the dams led to loss of life*

Sangathan and thus based on information received from our own staff and the local CBO, the HDRC team decided to visit the area.

Some of the initial teams to reach Banaskantha were the HDRC team comprising Mukesh Lakhum, Sharmil Yadav and Girish; Sushila Shantaben (Prajapati) from ActionAid, and Himanshu Banker from Vikalp. They reached Palanpur on the 27th of August, before any intervention has started. Initially, the road to Dhanera and Deesa was flooded and they were not able to reach the worst affected areas, but they managed to reach there for an initial assessment during the next day.

Some of the preliminary information was received from this team who spend the first few days in Banaskantha. They

visited various villages of Dhanera, Vav, Tharad, Deesa, Danta, Suigam and Kankrej talukas. This was also the point when a **whatsapp group** was established to coordinate the relief efforts in Banaskantha, undertaken by the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan, HDRC, ActionAid, Janvikas, Vikalp, etc. This group also made it possible for the assessment of the needs in various talukas and the specific situation at the village level to be communicated among those involved in organising relief. The overwhelming needs at the initial stages were for tarpaulin, dry food and grains, blankets and towels, kitchen kits and medicine kits.



*Figure 7: Initial assessment of damage and needs*

More information continued to be collected by HDRC teams and by the point persons, specially from the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan, coordinating at the field level, as kits were distributed.

The overall assessment in Banaskantha was:

- More than 4,000 cattle died in Banaskantha district.
- The electricity supplies to 753 villages were cut off.
- Over 370 roads, including six National Highways, and 153 State Highways and 674 Panchayat roads were flooded and closed for vehicular traffic.
- 80% of the villages of Dhanera and more than 30% of the villages of Kankrej were affected, and more than 10000 families from these villages were hit by the flood. There was heavy loss of life, property and livestock.

### **Dhanera Taluka**

In Dhanera, more than 3000 houses were noted to have been damaged in the initial assessment, and among those more than 700 shelters belonged to Dalit families. Household amenities were destroyed in all the houses.

The reports show that the number of affected families from among the SC, ST and Muslim families is significant (more than 1600 families of the total of 20000 in Dhanera City). In Runi, 20 Dalit families residing in close proximity have all lost their lands to the river Rail. Dhanera has also seen 15-20 deaths due to inundations by the river. In the cases in which families have lost their earning members, the situation is going to be dire in the future. In Vasan, agricultural farms have been destroyed and washed away. Runi is among the most affected villages are Gola, Aeta, Bhatib, Nani Dugdol, Shiya, Hadata, Alvada, Vasan, Dugava, Nenava.



### Dhanera: Urban

In Dhanera town, the noxious stench of rotting grains and dead animals, a thick layer of silt stuck on every road and lane making it almost impossible to walk. This is just an example of massive devastation that the recent heavy rains and floods have caused in this town.

Dhanera Town Population	Total No of Households	Households Affected	% of Households Affected	Marginalized Communities Households	% Marginalized Communities Households
29578	8000	3500	43.75	2360	67.43

- The Dalit Basti in Ladhapura: out of more than 250 families living there, 50% of had suffered damage to their houses and loss of groceries, grains, other home amenities and kitchen utensils, bedding etc. In most of the houses, the bedsheets were hanging out to dry in the open space, since there are no shelters.
- Belim Vaas Mohalla: Musla, Thakor and Luhar and other marginalized communities live there. A total of 60 families had their household amenities and goods washed out, and 10 houses were completely destroyed. They were temporarily relocated to the Raj Mandir Plaza complex, near Belim Vaas Mohalla. More than 60 children, 140 women and around 150 men were affected by the floods. At the time of the HDRC visit (30<sup>th</sup> August), the local government officials had not visited this area and were not providing for the primary needs. The people had received some relief food packets and water bottles but not sufficient and not proportionate to the need of the mohalla's population.
- Other parts of Dhanera town: a total of 15-20 human deaths were recorded due to the high flow of the river through the town.

### Dhanera: Rural

The extent of the damage in Dhanera Tuluca can be seen from the table below, indicating the extent of the damage, looking also at the number of families from marginalised communities (Dalit, Adivasi, economically poor, etc):

Sr. No.	Village Name	Total No. of HHs	HHs affected by flood	% Households Affected	HHs belonging to marginalized community	% Households Marginalized: Total Affected
1	Gola	516	500	96.90	250	50.00
2	Dugava Rajasthan	1100	500	45.45	300	60.00
3	Runi	667	450	67.47	325	72.22

4	Bhajana	596	450	75.50	300	66.67
5	Alvada	771	400	51.88	160	40.00
6	Vasan	483	400	82.82	250	62.50
7	Saral	741	400	53.98	300	75.00
8	Aeta	323	300	92.88	200	66.67
9	Dharnodhar	569	300	52.72	200	66.67
10	Rampura Mota	513	300	58.48	150	50.00
11	Vinchivadi	407	250	61.43	150	60.00
12	Rajoda	315	250	79.37	200	80.00
13	Thavar	993	200	20.14	180	90.00
14	Jadiya	917	200	21.81	100	50.00
15	Pegiya	342	200	58.48	100	50.00
16	Lavara	472	200	42.37	150	75.00
17	Bhatib	692	150	21.68	100	66.67
18	Edal	217	150	69.12	120	80.00
19	Kunwarla	473	150	31.71	60	40.00
20	Nenava	932	150	16.09	110	73.33
21	Malotra	760	150	19.74	60	40.00
22	Jadi	679	150	22.09	105	70.00
23	Janali	170	150	88.24	80	53.33
24	Vasda	167	150	89.82	100	66.67
25	Rampura chhota	226	140	61.95	100	71.43
26	Shiya	528	130	24.62	60	46.15
27	Motameda	285	120	42.11	80	66.67
28	Nani dugdol	288	100	34.72	30	30.00
29	Hadata	437	100	22.88	120	120.00
30	Nanuda	210	100	47.62	100	100.00
31	Voda	306	100	32.68	80	80.00
32	Nanameda	203	100	49.26	70	70.00
33	Mandal	285	80	28.07	50	62.50
34	Kotda Raviya	682	65	9.53		
35	Lelava	87	50	57.47	20	40.00
36	Anapur gadh	493	50	10.14		
37	Anapur Chhota	454	50	11.01		
38	Dedha	351	45	12.82		
39	Moti dugdol	488				
40	Bhatram	503				
41	Valer	695				
42	Sodwada	322				
43	Fatepura	218				
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20876</b>	<b>7730</b>		<b>4760</b>	

Gola, Vasan and Aeta were among the most affected villages of Dhanera Taluka. In these villages where people used to be at home, that places were completely submerged. Agricultural farms and crops were destroyed and fields were full of mud/silt. People were forced to stay in temporary tents due to water logging. In some villages people were waiting for the normalization of the situation taking refuge in school.

Clearly, the damage in a number of villages has been comprehensive, and overall the number of families affected from marginalised communities has been higher than the number of people affected from other communities. One of the reasons for this is the fact that frequently the Dalit areas are located on the margins of the village and in areas which are the first to be hit by river flooding or by water logging as a result of rain. This, we will see, is a problem even in terms of accessing relief.



Figure 8: Loss of agricultural land

➤ In Voda, a village 16 km from Dhanera, at the time of the initial assessment it was noted that six houses were entirely destroyed and most of the households had lost their goods and their daily necessities. Around 100 animals (cows, buffalos, goats etc.) died. Around 30 to 50 acres of agricultural land were lost in the floods, and agriculture is the means of subsistence in the village, through groundnuts, bajra, and other crops.

➤ In Thavar, where some of the Valmiki and scheduled tribes houses

were visited, the conditions were difficult, as the majority of the houses had been highly damaged.

- Vasan has 150 families affected by flood, out of which 20 families belong to marginalized communities. Around 50 acres of land have been destroyed, most houses have been damaged and people have lost their livestock and daily needs.
- In Nanuda village 100 families, in Bhajna 300 families, 300 Dugava families, 150 families in Nenava families, 50 Lavara families have lost everything to the floods.

### Kankrej Taluka: Rural

Khankrej is also one of the worst affected talukas. All the villages on river bank were submerged after the flood. In some villages where water receded, people witnessed the trail of destruction left behind

by the nature's fury. Sacks of grains rendered useless were lying on the road and people struggled to remove water from their house.

Kankrej has 101 villages, 45575 households. According to the Census 2011, Kankrej has a population of 2,57,553 (1,33,353 males and 124200 females), and 41918 children in the age bracket of 0-6 (22157 boys and 19761 girls). Khankrej was one of the worst affected talukas. All the villages on river bank were underwater since the floods.

Many villages were not accessible till the 30th of July 2017. A quick need assessment of 18 of the most affected villages was done on July 28, 29 and 30, 2017. Assessment for the remaining affected villages was also conducted and the information shared by Village level point persons and at the taluka level regarding the situation in Kankrej:

Sr. No	Name of the Village	Total No. of Households	No of affected Families	Affected households as % of total households	Affected families of marginalized community
	Manpura *	386	300	78	37
	Bhadrewadi *	379	225	60	25
3	Khariya *	170	170	25	45
	Runi *	146	146	100	120
	Amblun	258	70	27	
	Anganwadi	423	70	17	
	Unn	1109	50	5	
	Bhalgam	547	50	9	
9	Shiya	243	45	19	
10	Totana	527	40	8	
11	Sudrosan	264	40	15	
12	Mota Jampur	716	36	5	
13	Valpura	344	25	7	
14	Nanajampur	344	25	7	
15	Anandpura	214	20	9	
16	Tatiyana	538	20	4	
17	Ranakpur	495	20	4	
18	Bukoli	660	8	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8274</b>	<b>1834</b>	<b>22</b>	

\* 100% affected

- Runi, 20 km away from Dhanera, and mentioned earlier, is considered to be the worst affected in the floods. The majority of the Dalit and OBC community village members, living in the area around the river bank, were affected/ They lost their agricultural land and ground water wells destroyed. At the time of the flood, there were more than 40 such families living by the river bank. Overnight they lost their houses, possessions and land to the river.

## Vav-Tharad-Suigam Talukas: Rural

Tharad	Village Name	No of Households Affected	Vav	Village Name	No of Households Affected
1	Dod Gam	150	1	Pratapura	15
3	Nagla	90	2	Dheema	100
4	Khanpur	30	3	Bhakhri	60
6	Budhanpur	20	4	Sardarpura	30
7	Malupur	20	5	Golgam	70
8	Karanasar	20	6	Nalodar	80
9	Moti Pavad	30	7	Sapreda	20
10	Dudhva	20	8	Bodali	80
11	Jandi	5	9	Morika	100
12	Lunal	10		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>555</b>
13	Kodigam	8			
14	Ahbepur	25			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>428</b>			

The team sent to assess the situation in Tharad and Vav in the initial stages reported that Khanpur, Nagla, Dodgam, Morikha (Vav) and Kanoti (Suigam) were the worst affected villages. Suigam is a new taluka that has been carved out of Vav taluka so all official information on the talukas is still

under Vav taluka.

Nagla is shaped like a saucer, with all the houses of the marginalized communities in low-lying areas.



Figure 9: Households displaced taking shelter in a shopping complex

Around 70-80 families were compelled to relocate in the village school for over 10 days.

In Morikha as well around 50-60 families took shelter in the village school.

While the damages to the houses are serious, the loss of cattle is lower here than in Dhanera. These villages still have more than knee-deep water. The soil is such that it does not absorb the water and it has to be pumped out.

### IMMEDIATE RELIEF

In all these areas, immediate relief in the form of dry food packets, tarpaulin sheets, blankets, towels, medicine kits, drinking water etc. were identified as necessary.

## Ahmedabad: Urban

HDRC team working along with the local organisation 'Shaheri Ekta Manch' through the information network of the staff and volunteers realised the situation and extent of the flood impact of the urban area in ahmedabad.

In Ahmedabad, 15-20 slums were under water for more than 20 hours. People lost their shelters and had to be temporarily relocated. They also lost their household goods, provisions, etc. The areas affected within Ahmedabad city, according to the initial assessment were:

Sr No.	Area	No of Families Affected	Sr No.	Area	No of Families Affected
1	Suryanagar	100	8	Keshvaninagar	35
2	Bhoot bhavani	60	9	Shankarbhavan	30
3	Chamunda	50	10	Khoda Camp	25
4	Girdhanagar	50	11	Kalupur	20
5	Nehrubridge	50	12	Cheti Rog	10
6	Meghaninagar	42	13	Kankaria Lake	10
7	Jubilee Mill Area	40		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>522</b>

The 522 families are all from labourer and daily wage labourer groups, who in any case have to struggle for their subsistence. These are areas that HDRC has been working with in the past as well.

### IMMEDIATE RELIEF:



Figure 10: People waiting for immediate relief

The assessment indicated that for immediate relief, what was required was: Tarpaulin, Vessels for cooking, blankets, plastic sheets, dry food packets, drinking water, milk for the small children, pouches and sanitary napkins for women.

## IMMEDIATE RELIEF OPERATIONS

Bharatbhai Dabhi, Sarpanch of Runi, in Dhanera saved around 300 people with the help of his family. Moreover, he resisted the pressure of members of the privileged castes to evict the school premises of the people taking shelter there.

Relief work started almost immediately and continued side by side with the needs assessment. Even before the Government and not-for profit organisations reached the site of the floods, the people from the and neighbouring villages helped each other find shelter and food in this situation. The volunteers who reached the flood hit areas first, came across stories of villages which had not been affected, who decided to cook and send food to their neighbouring, villages that were flooded. There were heroic stories of people helping each other to reach safe places and supporting each other to survive.



Figure 11: Before any organisation reached, people responded

### Community and Civil Sector

Through the network previously established, a point person was appointed at the level of each village, and relief materials (like dry food packets, water pouches, vessels, blankets, clothes, medicines etc) were distributed by the volunteers of HDRC, of Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan and other organisations who contributed in the work. Coordination between the point persons, and ongoing assessment ensured that the relief reached the most underprivileged.

#### Community Relief Efforts

Ashrafbhai Gadlawala from the Valmiki Vas in Dhanera City helped with the removal of the bodies of those dead in the floods.

Local shopkeepers, petrol pump owners and other institutions like Lions club contributed in cash, provided relief material and cooked food and supported the relief work.

The immediate relief provided in the most affected areas comprised of:

- Drinking water, clean water and NaDCC tablets
- Tarpaulin sheets and bamboo for temporary shelters
- Blankets and towels
- Vessels and Non-food items
- Dry food, cooking grains, oil, salt, sugar
- Sanitary napkins and sanitary kits
- Milk powder for children

#### Partners in Organising and Providing Relief

Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan  
NCDHR  
ActionAid  
AmeriCares  
Adarsh Charitable Foundation  
Janvikas  
Vikalp  
Healing Touch  
Gujarat Dalit Sangathan  
Isabel Martin Foundation  
America Jewish World Service  
Ahmedabad Kerala Association  
Centre for Health and Development  
Misereor  
SXSSS  
Gujarat Province (SJ)  
ALBOAN  
IGSSS  
HDRC  
Friends and Family

After the initial 1-2 days, when only the most urgent requirements were provided, the number of organisations contributing to the work increased, both in terms of local presence and in financial contributions to provide kits to the affected people.

While the HDRC and BDS provided relief to all affected people, they took care to ensure that people from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised communities had access to relief materials, especially after other organisations began to provide relief, prioritising privileged communities. HDRC and BDS also coordinated the relief distribution in Dhanera town and Dhanera rural to ensure that there is no duplication. The team constantly kept track of relief material that came in from different sources. They also maintained record of the villages that received relief and those that needed to be provided relief. This way they tried to ensure that real needy families received the relief and no one was excluded.

A number of initiatives were seen during this initial stage of relief work:

1. Reliance Vans were sent to some of the most affected areas with provisions in the days immediately following the floods.
2. Medical camps were organised by the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan and AmeriCares (5-day camp at Dhanera), the Reliance Foundation (Vav Tharad and Kankrej), the Blind People's Association (2-day camp in Lakhni) and by a doctor from Centre for health and Development Mangaluru (1 camp in urban and 2 in rural Dhanera).



Figure 12: Reliance Foundation's Intervention in flood affected areas of Tharad and Vav



Figure 13: Medical camps in flooded affected village of Dhanera



Figure 12 Another Medical Camp in Dhanera

During these camps, colds, fever, skin diseases, diarrhoea and diseases that are water borne were addressed.

3. Religious groups and organisations also set up points in the affected areas and provided relief. Our volunteers also noticed that as people came to the villages bringing more kits and materials for relief work, they were stopped by these groups,



the kits taken over and distributed to the communities that the groups favoured. Needless to say, these were unfortunately not the marginalised communities.

### *Community Rehabilitation Efforts*

In Dhanera town, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind volunteers have chosen to focus their flood relief efforts on cleaning up sludge and debris from public institutions and private homes – something that flood-affected villagers have not had help with so far.

The group, prominent in their white skull caps, has already attracted local media attention, and have been heaped with praise. When they arrived in Dhanera on July 26, many places were flooded with four feet of water. When the water receded, the first thing they did was start cleaning out muck from temples, mosques, schools and hospitals, and then they did the same in people's houses.



Figure 13: Community organised cleaning drives

### **Government Contribution**

In the initial stages, rescue operations were organised and it is estimated that an approximate number of 11400 people were rescued with helicopters and other means.

Banaskantha, Patan and Morbi were later declared disaster affected areas and the affected people were provided:

- Cash dole, beginning soon after the flood
- Compensation for loss of livestock
- Compensation for loss of land
- Compensation for loss of living space

The network of volunteers mentioned above also provided support for the communities to be able to access this Government support, and continued the process of assessment, including the extent to which relief reached the marginalised communities.

This is yet not clear to what extent the relief has reached people. The circulars through which the Government announced various interventions are included in Annex 3.

## HDRC

The HDRC team specifically, making use of its own funds and of funds contributed by various agencies such as AmeriCares, Adarsh Charitable Trust, Ahmedabad Kerala Association, Miseroer, American Jewish World Service, ALBOAN and the Province of Gujarat (Sj), Isabel Martin Foundation, Vikalp, ActionAid, IGSSS contributed to the immediate relief. At the local level, the teams divided themselves into routes, and reached each village. At the village level, they coordinated with the point persons and the volunteers there, who then distributed the kits.



Figure 14: Relief distribution in collaboration with BDS

In **Ahmedabad City**, Immediate food relief was provided to 535 families in Suez Farm, Chandula, Allahnagar, Chepirog, Keshwaninagar and Surajnagar. Health camps were also organised in collaboration with GCS Hospital and Research Centre, where checkups for skin problems, viral infection, fever and cough were help. This took place in the Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanhbai Bridge, Kalupur, Suryanagar and Amraiwadi Areas and reached 555 people.



Figure 15: Relief Distribution: Ahmedabad Slums

Hygiene kits containing soap, handkerchief, skin ointment, chlorine tablets, detergent powder and 5 Kg of rice and 2 Kg of Moong Dal were also provided to 253 families in the Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanhbai Bridge, Kalupur , Suryanagar and Amraiwadi areas.

In Banaskantha, the HDRC team worked in collaboration with the Banaskantha Dalit Sangathan and



Figure 16: Immediate relief

other organisations, to coordinate the distribution of relief work. Since by side, ongoing assessment of the situation took place, along with an ongoing assessment of the distribution of relief materials to those affected by the floods.

Tarpaulin, bamboo, food and vessels, blankets and milk powder were sent, using the monetary contributions and

the kits provided by various organisations, to 43 villages in Dhanera taluka. In Dhanera town, similar kits were distributed to around 400 of the affected families.

HDRC kits with tarpaulin, blankets, vessels, bamboo, groceries and mosquito nets also reached 17 villages in Vav-Tharad, and 22 villages from Kankrej, Deodar and Babbar talukas. For a more detailed list of the distribution of relief, see Annex 3.

## STEP TWO: RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

During the first 15-20 days after the flood, both Government and non-Governmental agencies and civil society bodies were engaged in immediate relief work. While the immediate relief work is not yet over, the situation is not as severe as it was earlier, making it necessary to plan the next steps.

During the course of the immediate relief work, a number of immediate problems have already begun to be identified.

### Identification of Disaster-Affected Areas

At the initial stage, only Banaskantha and Patan were identified as Disaster-Affected Areas. At a later stage, Morbi was also added to the list. It is important to also acknowledge the extent of the damage which has taken place in the Anand and Ahmedabad Districts and the fact that rehabilitation will be needed there as well.

At a lower scale, the teams distributing relief have also realised that in certain areas, like for instance in Kotda (Raviya), the survey of the flood damage was done haphazardly and the areas which could not be reached because of waterlogging were left out of the survey.

### Discrimination in Providing Relief and Rehabilitation

The need assessment teams as well as the distribution teams came across a number of instances of discrimination.

1. Discrimination in the distribution of cash dole and compensation: Rural Dhanera, Eta village: The houses of 30 Dalit families were submerged in the flood. The government had not provided any kind of primary support to these people by the time of the visit, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August. A cash dole of Rs. 65 per head was being distributed to the affected families, for which the Principal of the Government School was responsible. The school teacher and Sarpanch refused to intervene in the situation and the people had to make a representation at the Block level. This finally compelled the principal, teacher and Sarpanch to distribute the money.  
Bhanjna village also had 3-4 Dalit families whose houses were fully destroyed by the floods. At the time of the visit of the HDRC team, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, the families had been left out of the distribution of cash dole by the government. This was condoned by the sarpanch.
2. Community-level caste discrimination: even in these dire circumstances there were instances of caste discrimination, with pressure from the so called upper caste communities in Runi to vacate the school where the Dalit affected families took shelter, and some of the members of these communities asked why the Sarpanch even tried to save the lives of people from the marginalised communities.
3. Discrimination in providing relief: a number of community-group based organisations provided relief only to the privileged communities to which they belonged. Moreover, the members of those communities attempted to oppose the access of the marginalised communities to relief provided by BDS, HDRC and other institutions in the network.

These are individual instances, but they are indicative of the fact that steps need to be taken to ensure that the relief and rehabilitation process is inclusive of all communities.

In certain cases, information has reached the teams that only half of the cash dole amount was given to the people entitled to it. **A resurvey of the cash dole distributed seems to be an urgent need.**

HDRC and NCDHR, possibly in collaboration with other institutions, plans to undertake, in the next couple of weeks, a survey of the reach of relief and rehabilitation specifically to historically and systemically marginalised communities (Dalit, OBC, Adivasi, Muslim, women etc.).

The team conducting the survey has undergone a quick training on damage assessment and inclusive monitoring, and side by side with conducting the survey, they will also help the affected people fill the required forms to access Government compensations, dole etc.



Figure 17: Training on Damage assessment and Inclusive monitoring in Tharad

### Access to Compensation for Housing

The Government has already indicated that compensation will be provided for the loss of living spaces. However, it is the most marginalised that will not be able to benefit from this.

For example, Shiv Nagar society, in Dhanera, houses around 400 families, out of which more than 100 are Dalit. The houses are illegally built on government land. People have been living here for the past 60 years. Even though a majority of the households here have been badly affected, the residents will not receive any cash relief from the government.

Lists are already being made of the houses for which compensation can be asked, such as the one for Dhanera below:

VILLAGE WISE LIST OF DESTROYED HOUSES IN DHANERA TALUKA					
Sr.	Name of Village	No. of houses	Sr.	Name of Village	No. of houses
1.	Lavara	2	12.	Dugava	5
2.	Vasan	12	13.	Thavar	3
3.	Aeta	9	14.	Jadiya	3
4.	Gola	5	15.	Dharnodhar	1
5.	Rampura	1	16.	Kotda	2
6.	Jorapura	3	17.	Nanameda	3
7.	Saral	2	18.	Edal	4
8.	Sagarvada	3	19.	Alvada	3
9.	Shiya	4	20.	Runi	6
10.	Nani Dugdol	2	21.	Rampura Mota	8
11.	Moti Dugg\dol	3	22.	Jathpura	1
				<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

## Farming Land in Banaskantha District

In the Tharad, Vav, Suigam and Kankrej Talukas of the District Banaskantha, significant land-related issues have taken place:

- Erosion and washing away of agricultural and non-agricultural land
- The land has developed deep pits
- Diminished fertility of the land
- The fertile top soil has been washed out
- The land remains waterlogged
- The landmarks indicating ownership of the land and the borders of the land owned cannot be determined



Figure 18: Loss of crops and cultivable land

The crops planted have been destroyed. In the

village Khanpur, in Tharad Taluka, 800 ha were flooded, leading to the loss of the monsoon crops. For the land where the top soil has been washed out, an investment of 2-3 lakhs is needed for each hectare



Figure 19: It will take a long time for the agricultural land to be reclaimed

of land; over 50 trolleys of fertilizer and fertile soil are necessary. Small scale farmers cannot make such an investment. Moreover, the plot markers have been washed out, making it difficult for the farmers to establish ownership. In the Ran Kantha area of Suigam Taluka, the soil has been eroded by the floods.

The usual crops here are Jeera, Groundnuts, Mung Dal and Raydo, which can no longer be cultivated there due to soil erosion. What is needed is to decide how to undertake land levelling and recover the water filled land. In order to do that, the experts from Krushi

University recommended by the Gujarat Government can advise, ways of rejuvenation of land, protection from further soil erosion. This would require soil testing, organising training programmes and awareness camps for the farmers at the local level.

The Government needs to declare subsidies on farming in the flood affected area. In the cases where the boundaries and ownership of the agricultural land cannot be established, the Government has to undertake urgent surveys, so that ownership issue can be solved.

There is an issue of compensation for housing. Those who do not have their own land for house may not be given subsidy for houses and that issue need to be addressed.

In Banaskantha, due to heavy rainfall over the last years, the fertility of the land has decreased. There are four main land-related issues to be considered in the future:

1. Land amelioration: for the land which has been washed out, eroded, the top soil removed, the boundaries destroyed, crops lost.
2. Irrigation: where the irrigation pipes have collapsed or have been destroyed, the bore wells have become unusable, the canals have developed pits or cracks, Diesel engines have broken down, electricity issues have cropped up due to water flooding.
3. Crops: where the monsoon and winter crops have been lost and cultivation is not possible, issues of people's livelihood and subsistence arise
4. Issues of shared land: for lands cultivated in common, compensation will not be provided. Representation needs to be made to the Government so that each cultivator receives compensation for their expenses.
5. Land ownership: Another issue is that the Dalit families who do not own the land on which their houses were constructed, or who do not have legal documents to prove ownership of the land will not receive Government help. Immediate representation needs to be made to the Collector, so that common village land is provided.
6. Looking after the needs of Small Farmers: The Government announced packages of INR 30000 per ha of irrigated land and INR 20000 per ha of non-irrigated land. Small farmers will not benefit from this. This is something that the Government needs to take into account.

## Health and Education

Once the immediate needs are taken care of, as life gets back to normal, it is important to ensure that the Public Health Care centres are open and accessible to the people affected by the floods. Only in Dhanera town, the damage suffered by the CHC has been approximated to INR 55 lakhs. A clear assessment of the situation is needed before further interventions can be considered.

Investigations are ongoing into the schools which have been affected by the floods. Lists are being prepared in the Banaskantha area, where measures will have to be taken to restore the village schools and to ensure that the students have the required study materials.

## Annex 1: HDRC Team's Interventions



Team	Date	Location	Intervention
Urban: Ahmedabad 1). Ravi 2). Dipti 3.) Bharti 4). Noorjahan 5). Nousar 6). Savitaben 7). Sangeeta 8). Minaxi 9). Nilam 10). Danish 11). Deepakbhai 12). Hitendrabhai 13). Shehnaz	27.07.17	Ahmedabad City Slums: Suej Farm, Chandula, Allahnagar, Chepirog, Keshwaninagar, Surajnagar	Emergency Food Support
	1-3.08.17	Ahmedabad City Slums: Chamunda Bridge, Girdharnagar, Kalapinagar, Chimanbhai Bridge, Kalupur, Suryanagar, Anraiwadi	Health Camps
	5-6.08.17		Hygiene Kit and Food Grains
Banaskantha: Mukesh Lakhum, Sharmil Yadav, Girish	27-30.07.17	Banaskantha Urban and Rural	Need Assessment
Banaskantha: Sangeeta Parmar, Priyanka Christian, Joseph Patelia, Mahendra (HDRC)	31-07.17-2.08.17	Banaskantha Urban and Rural	Need Assessment
Banaskantha: Alice Morris and Mukesh Lakum, Girish	2.08.17	Banaskantha Rural and Urban	Need Assessment and Coordination and Planning
Banaskantha: Mukesh Lakum, Manish Solanki (HDRC), Shailesh Christian (Sahyog), Girish	4-5.08.17	Banaskantha Rural and Urban	Need Assessment and Coordination and Planning
Banaskantha: Mukesh Lakum, Manish Solanki (HDRC), Shailesh Christian (Sahyog), Gova Rathod (Adivasi Mahasabha)	5-7.08.17	Banaskantha	Relief Coordination and Distribution
Banaskantha: Hitendra Rathod, Deepak Solanki (HDRC)	8-9.08.17	Banaskantha	Relief Coordination and Distribution
Banaskantha: Hitendra Rathod (HDRC), Dr. Jayanti Mankadiya (Gujarat Dalit Sangathan)	9-11.08.17	Banaskantha	Relief Coordination and Distribution
Banaskantha: Alice Morris and Mukesh Lakum	12.08.17	Banaskantha Rural and Urban	Need Assessment and Coordination and Planning



Annex 2: Relief Distribution as on August 14, 3017

Sr. No.	Village Name	Relief: Dhanera Taluka						Towels
		Tarpaulin	Bamboo	Food kit	Vessels kit	Blankets	Milk Powder	
1	Gola	109	200	109	10	100	50	200
2	Dugava Rajasthan	0	0	80	1	0	0	80
3	Runi	0	0	80	10	0	0	100
4	Bhajana	50	200	50	5	50	40	60
5	Alvada	0	0	60	15	0	0	60
6	Vasan	70	149	200	20	70	154	200
7	Saral	0	0	23	8	0	50	0
8	Eta	68	120	68	30	68	59	100
9	Dharnodhar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Rampura Mota	0	0	55	10	0	0	60
11	Vinchivadi	53	120	53	60	53	28	80
12	Rajoda	0	0	20	0	0	0	0
13	Thavar	65	150	80	20	80	0	50
14	Jadiya	40	120	84	0	0	0	0
15	Pegiya	20	100	80	9	20	0	60
16	Lavara	50	250	50	10	50	40	50
17	Bhatib	5	25	70	6	5	0	100
18	Edal	0	145	60	3	60	0	60
19	Kunwarla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Nenava	23	48	23	7	30	48	50
21	Malotra	0	0	0		0	0	0
22	Jadi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Janali	0	0	53	4	53	24	60
24	Vasda	0	0	22	0	0	0	0
25	Rampura chhota	0	0	26	10	0	0	60
26	Shiya	20	100	25	10	25	24	50
27	Motameda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Nani dugdol	12	60	12	12	12	24	60
29	Hadata	100	350	0	0	0	0	0
30	Nanuda	13	65	80	80	80	41	50
31	Voda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Nanameda	0	0	51	4	0	0	60
33	Mandal	0	0	31	0	0	0	0
34	Kotda Raviya	5	25	65	5	65	65	50
35	Lelava	16	96	16	2	16	24	16
36	Anapur gadh	3	15	50	3	50	0	50

37	Anapur Chhota	0	0	55	2	58	0	50
38	Dedha	0	0	45	0	45	50	45
39	Moti dugdol	100	500	150	10	100	0	100
40	Bhatram	0	0	13	11	0	0	50
41	Valer	0	0	25	12	0	0	50
42	Sodwada	0	0	38	4	0	0	60
43	Fatepura	0	0	34	5	0	0	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>822</b>	<b>2838</b>	<b>2036</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>2181</b>

**Relief: Dhanera Town as on August 14, 2017**

Tarpaulin	Bamboo	Food kit	Vessels kit	Blankets	Milk Powder	Towels
300	0	100	100	260	100	400

**Relief: Vav-Tharad as on August 14, 2017**

Sr.No	Name of Village	Tarpaulin	Blankets	Vessel Kits	Bamboo	Grocery kit*	Mosquito net
1	Morikha (Vav)	100	80	80	400	0	
2	Dodgam	110	80	80	200	0	
3	Dudhva	15	15	18	75	0	
4	Nagla	90	70	70	405	0	70
5	Khanpur	81	11	30	150	0	70
6	Kothagam	5	5	15	25	0	
7	Ledau	10	10	12	50	0	
8	Vadgam	12	12	17	60	0	
9	Lkarnasar	10	10	10	50	0	
10	Abhepura	25	25	25	125	0	
11	Charda	10	10	10	50	0	
12	Budhva	10	10	12	50	0	
13	Didarda	10	10	13	50	0	
14	Tharad-Valmiki Vas	12	2	100	60	0	
15	Bhakhri (Vav)	40	0	0	0	0	
16	Budhanpur	10	0	0	0	0	
17	Sanavia	17	13	13	0	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>567</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>1750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140</b>

\*neighbouring villages provided cooked food and other agencies distributed grocery kits to the flood affected families

Relief: Kankrej, Deodar, Bhabbar as on August 14, 2017					
Sr. No	Name of the Taluka/village	Tarpaulin, Bamboo and rope	Kitchen kit	Grocery kit	Clothes and blankets
<b>Taluka Kankrej</b>					
1	Runi	58	58	58	13
2	Badrevadi	29	27	20	15
3	Ranakpur	14	16	11	11
4	Anandpura	17	17	13	10
5	Shiya	32	26	32	27
6	Unn	15	15	15	15
7	Valpur	5	3	5	5
8	Amblun	8	8	10	8
9	Mandala	25	27	10	5
10	Bocchpur	52	52	25	10
11	Koda	27	28	10	13
12	Thara	16	12	20	11
13	Bhalgam	6	6	4	4
14	Totana	4	4	4	4
15	Adhgam	4	2	4	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Taluka Deodar</b>					
1	Paladi	10	7	0	0
2	Chibada	10	10	0	0
3	Ravel	6	6	0	0
4	Noka	10	7	0	0
5	Golvi	3	3	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Taluka Bhabbar</b>					
	Anva	7	7	7	7
	Aladhar	10	10	10	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>

Annex 3: Government Notices provided as separate pdf

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