

## **Two Districts level meetings for monsoon and flood like situation**

**Date : First meeting July 8, 2022 and Second meeting on July 14, 2022**

Inter-Agency Group of Gujarat is a network of NGOs that works on coordinated action for disaster preparedness, response and assisting in recovery. For the recent Cyclone Tauktae and Jamnagar Flood, 2021, as well, IAG Member organizations collectively reached more than 1,20,000 affected households directly, in the affected districts with critical needs. In coordination with the district governments (of Gir Somnath, Amreli and Jamnagar), further actions for recovery and resilience building are also being conducted.

For the current monsoon season, it is imperative to collaborate and gather relevant information, to initiate the required preparedness measures at the disaster-prone villages. In the last couple of weeks, we have also been in touch with NGOs to understand the monsoon situation in the districts.

Two online short meetings of the IAG Focal Persons from the identified most flood-prone 12 districts of South Gujarat and Saurashtra. This Inter-District Coordination meeting was mainly organised for the purpose of sharing the relevant information regarding the levels of precipitation in the respective districts, preparedness efforts taken, and the possible needs that may arise in case flood occurs. These two Inter-District Coordination and Preparedness Meetings were conducted on July 8 and July 14, 2022. With NGO representatives from 12 flood-prone districts, the discussion was on the emerging challenges due to heavy rains in southern Gujarat and the Saurashtra Coast. It was evident that maximum precipitation was received in the following districts: Navsari, Valsad, Dang, Tapi, Narmada, Vadodara, Chhota Udepur and Gir Somnath. Local organizations, in coordination with the district authorities, carried out basic relief distribution and need assessment in small groups, which was also a challenge due to water logging and issues of connectivity. The critical issues were of hygiene and health. The needs of special vulnerable groups such as women, children, fishermen, pavement dwellers and construction workers are also being reviewed. Regular contact with the Mamlatdars, and District and Taluka Governments was maintained for the initial few weeks to coordinate relief and response for identified families in Vadodara and Surat districts.

Topic: IAG Gujarat- Flood Preparedness Meeting

Time: Jul 8, 2022 04:00 PM India

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81929636158?pwd=eDVTVEZOMys5WjBhL0RzM0xIZXRudz09>

Meeting ID: 819 2963 6158

Passcode: 541431

The meetings were followed by frequent Monsoon update from IAG members.

## Monsoon Update Report July 13, 2022

### Situation Overview

- From June, 2022, till July 13, 2022, Gujarat has received almost 40% of the average rainfall that usually falls in the state during monsoon months.
  - The amount of rainfall on the days it rained has been high, even though the total number of rainy days have been less. As a result, there are several districts that are affected by heavy rainfall, namely- Kutch, Narmada, Surat, Panchmahal, Valsad, Navsari, Dang, Tapi, Dwarka, Gir Somnath, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Banaskantha, Junagadh.
  - Warnings for flash flood have been issued in several districts which have been predicted to receive heavy rainfall in the coming days- Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Narmada, Junagadh, Gir Somnath.
  - 61 deaths have already been reported in Gujarat since monsoon began. Most of them are a result of lightning strike and drowning.
  - Approximately 1500 people have also been evacuated from hazardous locations.
  - The district issued warnings on 8 July 2022 were for the following districts- Kutch, Navsari, Valsad, Dwarka, Jamnagar and Junagadh.
- By July 12, 2022, the situation changed again, increasing the risk of floods in few more districts- Kutch, Dwarka, Jamnagar, Morbi, Rajkot, Navsari, Valsad, Dang, Tapi, Surat, Bharuch, Narmada and Chhota Udepur.

### District-Wise Situation

On July 8, 2022, an Inter-District Flood Preparedness Meeting was held by Inter Agency Group (IAG), Gujarat online, where 34 representatives from 12 districts shared the situation in their respective districts- Dwarka, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Morbi, Amreli, Gir Somnath, Ahmedabad, Anand, Banaskantha, Vadodara, Bharuch and Bhavnagar. This was a preliminary discussion to understand the emerging in the various flood-prone districts, which revealed that, flash flood was a risk in small pockets of the following districts- Kutch, Ahmedabad, Morbi, Anand and Vadodara.

**Kutch-** since Kutch is an ecologically fragile location and is frequently affected by both drought and flood, NGOs who work in that district have already been involved in spreading alerts about needing to evacuate in case rainfall increases. They also shared that Lakhpat Taluka, which is primarily drought prone, has received 11 inches of amount of rainfall since July 9, 2022. 50 people had also been evacuated from Ghaduli, and were made to stay in a primary school. Apart from that, Dayapar and Lakhpat were heavily inundated.





**Ahmedabad-** on July 9, 2022, Ahmedabad also received the highest amount of rainfall it has received in the last 5 years- 115mm of rainfall. Several locations were flooded and stayed flooded till July 10, 2022. As a result, schools were shut down that day. Since then, rainfall has decreased, but some areas of urban Ahmedabad continued to stay flooded till July 11, 2022. Representatives from the district also shared that since almost 60 to 70 percent of urban Ahmedabad is occupied with slums, even small amounts of rainfall cause major challenges in terms of sanitation, and there is an increased risk of diseases. While public health care services are available, due to issues in managing the flood water and poor drainage, water-borne diseases and vector-borne diseases become a high possibility.

**Rajkot and Morbi-** district representative organizations suggested that there is a need to understand the level of preparedness by fishermen groups. Thus, fishermen groups from the talukas which are near the coast will be contacted. A review of their boats and life jackets will be done to ensure that damages to boats have been repaired and can be used for rescue in case need arises. An orientation of the fishermen groups on basic rescue from drowning will also be done,

after checking their current skills in rescue.

**Anand-** NGO representatives from Khambhat taluka in Anand district shared that by July 8, 2022, rainfall in Anand had just begun. However, in just 6 hours, the district received 12 inches of rainfall. The maximum impact was felt in Sisva Village of Borsad Taluka where 50 households were affected from flash flood. A quick survey of the affected households and Dalit households was done, which revealed that their primary needs were that of Shelter and Food. Community and village-based organizations, NGOs and taluka authorities provided the initial relief support to the affected 50 households. A knowledge group supported by a local CSR has taken the initiative of reconstructing the 50 affected houses. In other areas of Anand, rainfall was at manageable levels.



**Vadodara-** by July 8, 2022, the amount of rainfall in Vadodara was relatively less. However, based on past experience, district representatives shared that the overflow from River Vishwamitra often results in flash floods in the district. Therefore, information sharing with the local CBOs is going on, to keep communities ready to evacuate in case the river overflows. The basic food and non-food needs of the most vulnerable families and individuals has been listed, based on a mapping exercise that was done during Covid. It was understood that the main needs that emerges are often of food and clothes. Community leaders have also been prepared to work on evacuation and rescue and a discussion with them will be done to keep them ready to provide support. Communities have also been asked to keep their documents and other important papers safely in waterproof bags. However, the district level network needs to be strengthened further to be able to reach all the affected families on time, in case flood occurs.

**Other districts-** Surat and Valsad were also flooded since July 9, 2022. The flash flood of River

Ambika in Valsad resulted in 16 people getting stranded, who were then rescued via helicopter by the Indian Coast Guard. Lightning was also a major concern for Valsad, Ahmedabad, Navsari, Surat and Dang districts.

### Initiated Preparedness Measures

- Organizations working in the flood-prone locations and locations receiving high amounts of rainfall are aware of the potential of flash floods. They are occupied in disseminating the early warnings that are being issued by the district in these locations. They are also working on ensuring that the community is aware of the basic Do's and Don'ts for flash floods and floods.

- The Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) of the districts with red-alerts have also been contacted for regular information regarding rainfall. This information is also being shared with

the villages-based organizations that the organizations are in contact with in their field locations.

- A list of the IAG Member organizations working in the flood-prone locations is being shared with the taluka and district authorities so that coordination can be done for rescue and relief.

- Organizations and government of the nearby districts that do not have red-alerts for flood are also being contacted to ensure that there are sufficient resources and capacity for flood response, if their own capacity fails due to heavy floods.

- The organizations in the district where red-alerts have been issued are also regularly holding discussions and sharing information from time to time with the NGOs and government of the respective talukas. [L]The information regarding rainfall that is often shared by the district is treated as homogenous. However, rainfall is not a homogenous phenomenon. Each village and taluka experience drastically different amounts of rainfall. Therefore, the data from the district is often misleading. In a region with normal quantities of rainfall, if flash floods occur in a handful of villages, this information does not have as widespread a reach as it would if an entire taluka was experiencing flash flood. As a result, only major flood events capture the attention of response-based organizations, while small flooding events get overlooked. As of now, heavy rains are being experienced in certain patches of the mentioned districts. There are also cases of flash floods where the water is logged for 3 to 12 hours. However, major

cases of flood have not yet occurred in Gujarat. The next step is for the IAG District Focal Persons to maintain regular dialogue with taluka and district authorities, to inform them of small-scale floods, as well as, prepare for supporting rescue and response for major floods.

Sources of Information:

- Information from IAG member organizations shared during the Flood Preparedness Meeting.
  - Updates on rainfall shared by IAG Members regularly via WhatsApp/Messages.
  - Government bulletins/Press Note, Circulars from respective line departments.
  - Media reports (Print and Electronic media, national and local).
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Monsoon Update Report  
July 18, 2022

Situation Overview

- From June, 2022, till July 17, 2022, Gujarat has received 84% of the average rainfall that usually falls in the state during monsoon months.
- The level of precipitation has been especially high in some of the South Gujarat and Saurashtra Coast districts such as- Navsari, Valsad, Dang, Tapi, Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Vadodara, Bharuch, Dwarka, Gir Somnath and Kutch. 934 people were also evacuated from Navsari.
- Heavy rains have caused water logging in several agricultural fields and houses in the lower regions of the districts which are receiving heavy rainfall. As a result, cotton and toor daal crops which were fully cultivated, have withered. Several farmers have lost their entire income since none of the standing crops are in a good enough condition. Farmers will now buy new seeds and start cultivation all over again.
- However, rains have now reduced, and therefore, impact assessment in different locations is being carried out, since rainwater has just started receding from the locations that were inundated.

## District-Wise Situation

Post the Inter-District Monsoon Meeting on July 14, 2022, regular coordination is being done with IAG Members of the districts where maximum precipitation is being recorded. The status of these districts is as follows:



**Bharuch-** in Islampur GP, Kuriya, Asarsa, Nada and Devla regions has received sufficient rainfall for agriculture, and there are no damages due to it. In the low-lying plains however, a dam breach occurred on July 16, due to which, houses along the dam got inundated, which resulted in minor damages. The Jambusar Police made visits to check damage and breach site. Water logging from the dam also caused damage to some of the crops.

**Navsari and Valsad-** while water had started receding from July 16 itself, water logging, which lasted 2 days, caused major damages to ration and other items of household utility. In 5 affected areas of Navsari- Veraval, Santadevi, Station Area, Dusratekri and Kaliawadi- the government along with the Mamlatdar, DDMA and volunteer groups, carried a basic damage assessment of these regions and planned a strategy for response. They distributed food packets to the affected households. The need for Tarpoline sheets and other items of household utility were also identified, for which discussions between government and non-government stakeholders was going on. Desai Foundation is also planning to conduct a health camp in 3 urban locations, in coordination with the district government.

In Navsari and Valsad, the maximum impact was felt in urban areas, and the initial relief support was provided by several local groups. The government was also occupied in moving people to safe shelters for the coming days. Migrants who have settled in urban areas faced maximum impact, since they have no ownership of the land or a shelter over their heads. Mostly all pavement dwellers, construction workers, etc., lost all their belongings. Several Kuccha houses in urban areas also got damaged. In rural areas however, the impact was less. The maximum impact was on agricultural crops which got damaged. The government has also announced a compensation package for crop loss of more than 33%, in consultation with the agriculture



department. However, since the size of land holdings are extremely small in these districts, most of the people are not eligible for the compensation. Cohesion Foundation is presently involved in discussions with the agriculture department and the government to include these people in the compensation as well.

**Sources of Information:**

- Updates on rainfall shared by IAG Members regularly via Call/WhatsApp/Messages.
- Government bulletins/Press Note, Circulars from respective line departments.
- Media reports (Print and Electronic media, national and local).