

## **First report on Dalit flood in Bihar - 10 August 2007**

### **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS (NCDHR) DALIT SAMANVAY ENFORCEMENT OF DALIT HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR)**

#### **RAPPID ASSESSMENT OF FLOOD SITUATION AND DALITS IN BIHAR**

##### **Preliminary observations**

The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights has visited 51 villages covering 4 districts and did rapid assessment of floods and situation of Dalits and the relief and humanitarian aid in Bihar on 8 and 9 of August 07. The report shows that Dalit are affected in large proportion but relief has not reached them and if reached it is very scanty.

**Among those who lost shelter, livelihood and life 80 percent are Dalits. 60% of the dead belong to the Dalit community - 369 people were lost their life among them 223 were Dalits in 51 villages that the team visited. 308 people were missed among them 166 belongs Dalit community .** We were informed to the team that in sub-division of Bakhari, of Begusarai, Chariya Bariyarpur Block, village Basahi was totally washed away. Dalits were taken shelter in dominant castes' houses and in temporary shelters. Some women were reported that they were sexually harassed and assaulted in places of shelter.

Therefore NCDHR and Dalit Samanway are planning to undertake rapid assessment in other districts and set up Dalit watch Centres to monitor relief and humanitarian aid in flood affected areas along with other Dalit organizations in Bihar.

**Below is a gist of the rapid assessment details along with details taken from the Secretary, Disaster management Department, Govt of Bihar.**

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1. Affected area

Affected Area				
S.No	District	No.of Blocks	No.of Panchayats	No.of Villages
1	Muzaffarpur	12	135	713
2	Sitamarhi	17	256	667
3	Saharsa	6	26	161
4	East Champaran	23	233	913
5	Supaul	6	31	94
6	Darbhanga	18	8	2104
7	Patna	6	26	127
8	Bhagalpur	10	18	60
9	West Champaran	11		213
10	Katihar	12	48	68
11	Madhubani	20	256	646
12	Samastipur	8		85
13	Sheohar	5		122
14	Nalanda	7	93	375
15	Khagaria	7	69	139
16	Gopalganj	8	30	75
17	Madhepura	3	20	36
18	Araria	1	12	25
19	Begusarai	5	27	29

Source: Report dated 9.8.07, Department of Disaster Management, GoB

### 1.2. Extent of Damage

Extent of Damage		
1	Districts	9
2	Blocks	185
3	Panchayats	1290
4	Villages	6602
5	Persons(in lakhs)	140.54
6	Animals(in lakhs)	3.23
7	Crop (lakh hect)	11.181
8	Estimate crop damage (Rs. Lakh)	26307.13
9	No. of Houses Damaged	125459
A	Fully	41214
B	Partial	84245
C	Estimate Value (Rs. Lakh)	9609.61
10	Public Property Damaged (Rs. Lakh)	4302.7
11	Lives lost (No.)	
A	Human – Flood	141
B	Human – other	29
C	Animal	102

Source: Report dated 9.8.07, Department of Disaster Management, Gov of Bihar

## 2. Relief provided by the Government

Relief Provided as on 9.8.07			
S.No	Relief	District covered	Quantity
a)	Ready food		
	Rice	7	18199.7
	Chana	1	4.1
	Salt	9	245.05
	Chura	15	5592
	Sattu	3	46.65
	Gur	15	849.45
b)	Cash Amount	12	363.01
c)	Matches	11	60388
d)	Candles	11	117618
e)	Polythene sheets	16	35923
f)	Food Packets dropped	5	22610

source: Report dated 9.8.07, Department of Disaster Management, GoB

## 3. Villages Visited on 9.8.07

Team visited 51 villages covering six blocks of 3 three district assessed situation.

## 4. Observations

1. 80 percent of affected people are Dalits. Still water was not fully drained and people were crossing the roads in 6fts water even after 15 days.
2. 60% of the dead belong to the Dalit community - 369 people were lost their life among them 223 were Dalits in 51 villages that the team visited.
3. 308 people were missed among them 166 belongs Dalit community.
4. People were informed to the team that in sub-division of Bakhari, of Begusarai, Chariya Bariyarpur Block, Village Basahi was totally washed away. People fear that about 1000 inhabitants were washed away and among them many are Dalits. Among this is an incident where a whole 3-storey building collapsed. All the people who were taking shelter were killed.
5. Many people died because of snake bites and as no immediate medical relief measures were not available for them. Team did not find any medial camps in all the villages visited.
6. The assessment done by the government was not reflecting the ground situation mainly on loss of life and missing people.

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