



Sindh Agricultural & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization (SAFWCO) Flood updates November, 2011

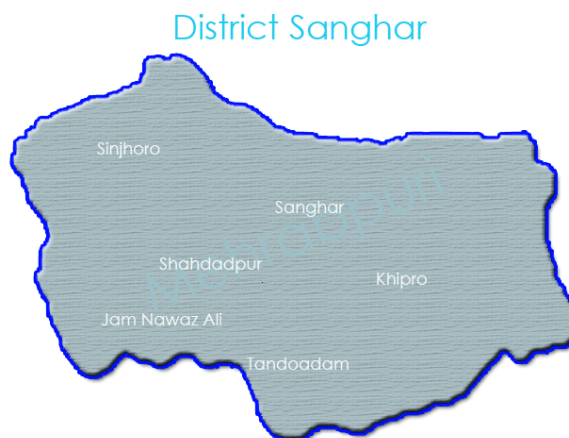


A view of the flood-hit Sanghar district of Sindh province

Flash Appeal For District Sanghar-2011

Brief District Profile:

District Sanghar has 6 tehsils and 59 Union Councils. The total population of district according to 1998 census is 13,331,068 while according to estimates the current population of district is more than 2 million. The average household size is 6 persons. The population growth rate of district was recorded as 2.57 in the census with 135sq km density rate. 77.3 percent of population lives in rural areas while 22.7 per cent population lives in urban areas.



| S # | TALUKA/TOWN | Union Councils | Population |
|-----|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 | SANGHAR | 11 | 266,335 |
| 2 | SHAHDADPUR | 13 | 309,997 |
| 3 | TANDO ADAM | 10 | 230,518 |
| 4 | JAM NAWAZ ALI | 4 | 92,704 |
| 5 | SINJHORO | 8 | 202,796 |
| 6 | KHIPRO | 9 | 228,718 |
| | Total | 55 | 1,331,068 |

Note: This figure is according to Census Report 1998

Health and education facilities in District

The literacy ratio of district is 30.9 per cent, which are very low. There are only 3277 primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools while there are only 6 colleges. Health facilities in district are also inadequate. There are 6 taluka hospital and 70 RHC, BHUs & Dispensaries.

Economy of District

Agriculture, Livestock rearing and Management, manufacturing units medium and large (Cotton Ginning, Oil Mills, Food, Match Factory, Sugar Mills and Misc, rice mills).

Flood Losses in District Sanghar

The current Monsoon rains have affected 22 districts of Sindh. Badin, Benazirabad, Sanghar, Mirpur Khas, Umerkot and Tharparker are the worst affected districts of province.

District Coordination Officer (DCO) Sanghar in a briefing informed the Prime Minister that 770 mm of rain has so far been recorded in District Sanghar.

Looking at the destruction caused by monsoon rains government has announced Sanghar as calamity-hot districts. Up to now 50 people have lost their lives and more than 100 people are injured in these floods. The number of death especially of children due to diseases like gastro and diarrhea is also increasing.

More than 1.3 million people living in more than 5,700 villages and towns are directly affected. According to reports 172,723 houses are damaged out of which 63,018 are fully damaged.



Aerial look of District Sanghar after rain floods 2011 floods

The flood water has entered even in major cities like Sanghar, Jam Nawaz Ali, Sinjhor and town like shahdadpur were at risk of inundation due breaches in canals, while rural parts of these tehsils are under water.

The rescue teams are working but very slowly. Thousands of people are displaced in district; still no effective steps are taken for the displaced people and those who are entrapped in flooded villages. According to elected representatives of people, government and concerned departments are ignoring their call for help of people of district. In response to slow response by government, local community representatives of parliament are protesting against government.



CONTEXT AND RESPONSE TO DATE

District Sanghar has been experiencing heavy rainfall since early August 2011 onwards. This rainfall intensified from August 2011, significantly increasing the level and extent of flooding caused by rain and breaches in canals and LBOD. This increased precipitation is largely due to monsoon phenomenon, with Department of Meteorology records indicating the highest rainfall levels in the history of district, where the entire district is under rain.

At the peak of the floods, with local resources under serious stress, elected representatives of district MNAs and MPAs, Relief Committee Chairperson, Civil Society Organizations, Local Support Organizations and grass root level have appealed to government and Internal, National, and local Non Governmental Organization for the support of people of district. Thousands of people have displaced and stayed on embankments and road sides to save their lives



No any response has been reported yet by any organization except provision of cooked food in some areas by the government authorities. Still there are 560 Camps organized in district where 127,444 people are stayed. (Number varies as given by other sources this figure is given by district Government official)

Agriculture and Livestock losses

Agriculture and livestock are the main sources of livelihoods of people. Agriculture of district is hardly hit which serves as the backbone of economy of district. The district is reported to be number one in production of cotton in Sindh is completely damaged. More than 3,60,000 acres of cultivated land according to data provided by district government are affected, but figures are reported to be more. NDMA reports the figure of livestock died in few thousands, but according the private sources number may increase to more than 1 million and still a large number of animals is diseased.



Diseases to people

People with Malaria, diarrhea, Gastro, fever, eyes and many other skin diseases are reported to be infected District Sanghar. Drinking water sources are contaminated. And there are doubts of

spreading of Dengue and other such diseases as well. The consumption of drinking water caused water born diseases. Death of children due to water born diseases is also reported in district. Cases of poisonous insects are snake bites are also reported in district Sanghar as in other parts of the province.

Rescue and relief Services by Government

Government has taken very small measure to help the affected peoples of the district. Army has been called out to rescue thousands of stranded people marooned in floods villages, but still a large number is looking forward for their help and support. But hundreds of thousands of people were looking for their help for more than 1.3 million people are affected directly by these floods. Chief Minister has announced PKR 20 million for District Sanghar (12th Sept). But people are still in process of receiving this amount.

HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

The Sindh Agricultural & Forestry Workers Coordinating Organization, one of the leading Humanitarian Organization of Sindh with District Sanghar as her home district and working in entire district with all major interventions mobilized her staff for in-depth assessment of the 4 above mentioned taluka of district Sanghar to direct the prioritization process and target assistance to the most vulnerable areas. The rapid assistance indicated that immediate humanitarian support is required for:

- Food and NFIs relief, as food stocks and crops were destroyed and market supplies and damaged and destroyed are on the verge of being exhausted
- WASH interventions as floods contaminated water supplies and damaged or destroyed infrastructure such as roads and culvert and sanitation.
- Emergency Medical Services to people with diseases like gastro, diarrhea, malaria etc.

Immediate Needs of people

Clean Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Sources of drinking water are contaminated in rains. People have dire need of drinking water immediately. Approximately 90,000 Families require external assistance for access to safe water for drinking and cooking. Furthermore, majority of the drinking water sources are contaminated, thus putting these families, including women and children, at risk of water-borne disease. In WASH Sector initially emergency water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion facilities should be provided in the temporary evacuation centres. Emergency latrines are also needed because in emergency relief camps either there are no



latrines or they are not enough for migrated people

Health and Nutrition

During this constant rainfall some people are suffering from water born diseases and rest other are in threat of more epidemics if immediate initiatives are not taken to drain out the stagnant water and to shift the people to the safer areas.. In many camps team didn't find any medical assistance. Patient of different diseases are complaining for medical assistance.

The immediate health need is provide health and nutritional services to the affected population including those staying in camps and safer areas. This can be achieved through establishment of medical camps in relief camps and mobile medical clinics. Ambulances may also be needed to assist in the emergency referral services to those in need.

Medical supplies including medicines, maternity and hygiene kits and high energy biscuits can assist in reducing morbidity and preventable mortality. Potential outbreaks of diseases in the flood-affected areas should be addressed immediately through strengthening of early warning disease surveillance system, and implementing food, water and vector-borne prevention activities. Mobilization of the affected community can assist in the dissemination of health information on health diseases and hygiene and sanitation through health campaigns.

Shelter and NFIs

Initial assessment figures indicate that over 60000 families may need both shelter assistance and NFI relief. Families are likely to increase in camps and host families can be expected to need both types of support in the coming weeks and months. Basic items such as clothing, anti-mosquito equipment, light sources and cooking equipment are urgently needed by the displaced, including those still with host families, as such items were lost or rendered unusable by the floods. Rapid mitigation of the risks to family health and basic welfare such losses entail is essential.



Emergency Medical Services

A large number of people especially children and women are entrapped by Diarrhea, gastro, malaria etc. Like other emergency needs, emergency medical camps need to be organized to save the lives of children, women and men especially old age people. There is also dire need of reproductive health facilities.

Education

More than 20,000 students are currently unable to continue with their education. Schools have been closed and many, despite being flooded, are currently occupied by displaced residents of the affected areas. About 200 schools have been either affected or occupied by the displaced people. In addition, students have lost their education materials including uniforms, text books and learning materials. These losses along with disruption to daily livelihood activities and the difficulties living in the displaced environment have stressed children and teachers.



Rehabilitation and reconstruction of Flood affected areas

These floods have caused a lot of collateral damages in the adversely affected areas. There is need of rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses, social and agricultural infrastructure in these areas so that people can be protected from any other disaster induced by negligence of Rehabilitation and reconstruction of these areas and restoration of their livelihoods to the people.

SAFWCO Appeals to all humanitarian organization to come forward and help the marginalized communities of district Sanghar.