

### A Brief Report of the North Karnataka Meeting in Dharwad on the Flood Affected Areas

The Jana Arogya Andolana Karnataka (JAAK) held a meeting of the partner NGOs in the North Karnataka region on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Dharwad to discuss issues related to the flood affected areas and also on the relief measures that need to be done.

About 28 people from 10 districts participated. Since one year JAAK and CHC had been discussing about setting up the Jana Arogya Andolana (JAAK) - North Karnataka unit which got established on this day. A core committee was formed with Mr. Karibasappa and Ms. Swarna as the two conveners and one member from each district as core-committee members. Dr. Gopal Dabade is the advisor. The following NGOs were represented:

Raichur – JMS and NJMO  
Haveri – Nirman and NEEDS  
Bagalkot – Jagruti and CARTS  
Bijapur – Jagruti  
Bellary - Sakhi  
Gulbarga – BAIF  
Dharwad - BGSS  
Belgaum - Spandana  
Koppal - Safe Motherhood Campaign  
Gadag – KVK

#### **Flood situation update from North Karnataka:**

Sharing was done by participants on the extent of damage that had happened in the working areas of some of the organisations. A detailed needs assessment was being made and it would mostly be gap filling exercise. Raichur groups had been reporting directly to AID and hence Raichur district is not mentioned in detail here. We had some more detailed information about Bagalkot district which is detailed below and the rest of the districts of Haveri, Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Koppal would come in 1-2 days.

The following broad needs have been outlined for the immediate relief

- a) Drinking Water
- b) Food grains
- c) Vessels -minimum 4 and plates 4
- d) Plastic / tin sheets for shelter
- e) Mats/blankets/mosquito nets
- f) Soaps
- g) Some of these families have been displaced and shifted to new areas where the schools are going to start and these children need to be paid school fees for the admission into the schools
- h) Chlorination and halogen tablets for drinking water
- i) Meeting Psycho-social needs of the affected people.

The following processes have been outlined for all the districts:

1. The partner organisations are to further strengthen the networking processes with other organisations working in the area
2. Contact persons for the districts have been identified now and they would now report on a daily basis to the central team in Bangalore regarding the needs of the community.
3. The organisations are to make needs assessment more as a gap filling exercise and specifically identify the needs of the community which the other organisations are not distributing. It will take another 3-4 days to figure out these exact needs.
4. The district coordinating organisations are to establish contact with the district DHO and DEO by giving JAAK's letter of preventive steps to be taken by the authorities. They have to also establish the contacts with the PHC/CHC and Sub-centers (ANMs, ASHAs and Anganawadis). Raichur has already done this and as a result of which the spread of diseases has been mitigated to certain extent.
5. The government efforts have to be monitored on the long term rehabilitation efforts. These were not gone into to much detail as the immediate need was for relief. Even then some of the broad areas that were identified were preparation of a commons long term needs database for the village, use it as a reference to check the government's survey reports and then use it as a tool for further lobbying of the government. continuous monitoring of the government's efforts.
6. The central JAAK team in Bangalore would get reports from the organisations on the needs of the villages when assessment is done.
7. The central team in Bangalore to send out periodic reports on the efforts done and the support needed to the wider communities

The following are the efforts done in concrete terms in 2 districts. JAAK members have risen to the occasion in Bagalkot district.

### **Bagalkot District**

#### **Badami taluk**

**Manneri Village:** A breakfast center has been opened in Manneri by CARTS. 250 people are provided with breakfast since 3 days and the community has requested them to continue this support for another 8 days. The partner organisations till now are running these centers with the money raised from family and friends. The gruel centers of the government are supplying the lunch and dinner but the quality of the same is being monitored by the organisations

The cost of the running the breakfast center is coming to approximately Rs. 8 per person. 50 families have been affected in this village and 1 blanket has been provided by some other organisation but as a gap filling exercise the demand is there for another 100 blankets for these families

**Mangalagudda villag:** The whole village has been affected and 2500 people are being supplied breakfast by the breakfast center. Here also the gruel centers of the government are supplying the lunch and dinner but the quality of the same is being monitored by the organisations

**Kyada Village:** 2500 people affected. Out of 350 houses only 18 have survived. The organisations were hesitant to open a food centre here as they felt they could not stretch too much with the money they had raised. The meeting at Dharwad raised their hopes of some more support coming and hence are now emboldened to open such centres here as well

**Chimmelagi village:** 2500 people affected. Out of 308 houses 295 have been destroyed. Further details about needs are awaited

**Kaataraki village:** 100 houses have fallen and 2000 people have been affected. Further details are awaited

**Neeralagi village:** 25 houses have been destroyed and 100 families comprising of 500 people are in need of support

**Tambinaala village:** 100 families, 1000 population and 20 houses have been damaged.

The belt from Kyada village to Tambinala has not been covered by any other organisation except Jagruti. Further details are awaited.

In addition to this, in Manneri village about 50 families displaced by the previous floods of 2007 have not been suitably rehabilitated till now and there have been protests by these families demanding immediate handing over of the proper papers of patta pertaining to their lands (Hakku patras). Authorities have promised to give it by this week otherwise those families are going to intensify their struggle.

The children of the affected families because of displacement have to join new schools when the schools reopen on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> for which definitely support is needed in the form of fees, books etc., The details will be sent out shortly.

In lieu of the above efforts and looking at the needs, it is sincerely requested that the wider community steps up the response to our appeal in solidarity with the affected people. The JAAK TEAM (Headstreams, AID and SOCHARA) have decided to support efforts in Bagalkote district)

- Report by Mr. E. Premdas, CHC

**Harrowing experience:** Those who are still in gruel centres, also have harrowing experience. The women are the worst-affected as there is no toilet facility in the gruel centre, let alone taking bath.

*After the unprecedented rains that rendered thousands homeless, it is shortage of relief materials that has been haunting the displaced, who solely depend on relief camps set up by state government.*

## NORTH KARNATAKA FLOODS – FACTS AND FIGURES

The unabated rain from September 29 to October 1 *has wreaked havoc* across the 13 northern districts of the State, *leaving people in a state of shock*. Heavy floods have forced thousands of people to take refuge either on treetops or tall buildings. Hundreds have fled their homes and taken shelter in public buildings such as schools and community halls. Gruel centres have been opened and food packets were being air dropped.

### **Loss of life and property**

DISTRICT	DEATHS	HOUSES	CATTLE*	VILLAGES**	CAMPS	PERSONS***
Belgaum	12	34,867	186	213	288	76,168
Bidarga	21	20,514	547	57	76	57,514
Bijapur	31	16,798	317	23	110	23842
Raichur	26	30,935	1,894	853	156	61,541
Dharwad	3	8,967	106	12	15	14200
Bagalkot	31	40,406	771	45	303	165,550
Bellary	16	38,066	623	68	75	60,928
Koppal	20	25,360	330	46	74	13625
Haveri	—	3472	10	NA	2	313
Bidar	3	743	11	NA	—	—
Gadag	13	13,442	380	92	230	73,174
Davanagere	3	5721	76	20	8	1102
Utara Kannada	10	577	6	9	19	2,117
Dakshina Kannada	1	3	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2,39,862</b>	<b>5,266</b>	<b>1,468</b>	<b>1,588</b>	<b>5,50,083</b>

\* Cattle loss, \*\* Affected villages, \*\*\* Persons accommodated  
(Source: Revenue Dept) (A statement issued by the CMS secretariat put the death toll at 194)

The worst-affected districts are Bijapur, Bagalkot, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary and Gadag.

### **BIJAPUR**

Collapsed houses, breached tanks, damaged roads, culverts and bridges and rotting crops are common scenes in Bijapur, one of the badly affected districts in the century's worst floods. Thousands have been wounded and hundreds of villages have been surrounded by turbulent water of rivers and streams that have been flowing in full spate. The roads are filled with knee-deep water everywhere. The underground drainage system has completely given away throwing its contents on to the roads.

It is not the first time that the district has witnessed disasters caused due to floods. Just two years back, hundreds of villages on the banks of river Bhima and Krishna were flooded. Even then, the suffering of the people was almost of the same magnitude. But even then, the district administration was not prepared in spite of the apprehensions expressed by the villagers. Instead, the politicians and the district officials got engaged in a blame game criticising the Maharashtra government for the sudden release of water from its dams. But not a single boat was arranged, no relief centres were opened and no measures to shift those vulnerable villagers were taken.

**Growing fear of epidemic outbreak:** Apart from the large scale destruction, the rains have brought with them the fear of an epidemic outbreak. Cases of H1N1 and dengue, and now the number of people suffering from fever, cold, cough, vomiting is steadily increasing. The huge loss in the devastating floods began unfolding as the water levels started receding in most of the places.

The villagers, whose houses have collapsed or submerged, are still camping at schools, temples and community halls. Farming and stone quarrying activities have come to a stand still, rendering thousands jobless. Several stone (Minajagi Parsi) quarries in Muddebihal taluk are filled with water. People residing along the banks of Krishna, Bhima and the Doni rivers were worst affected. Khariff crops - sugar cane, sunflower, tur dal, cotton jowar, bajra in thousands of acres in Bijapur, Indi, Sindagi, Basavan Bagewadi and Muddebihal taluks have been lost. According to eyewitnesses, villagers who are used to the staple "Jowar Roti" are being given rice gruel, that too in limited quantities.

The situation is no better in Bagalkot, another district worst hit by the rains, where people in several villages have been migrating to other places in search of livelihood.

## **RAICHUR**

The lack of connectivity of roads, where only two-wheelers can ply, is **hindering relief work**. In Talamari village of Raichur taluk, process of clearing of debris and Drinking water availability led, an irate mob burnt the vehicles of government officials and elected representatives. Hulagunchi at Sindhanur taluk is another village which is highly affected, as the connecting road is completely damaged. However local organisations and NGOs have made arrangements for food and medical checkup. Basappa, a villager, says, "All our crops are washed away and stored grains are wet. We have to start afresh from buying utensils to clothing and rebuilding shelter." There are 102 houses at Hulagunchi of which 100 houses have completely collapsed. They have erected themselves temporary sheds on the roadside by stitching up plastic cement bags.

## **KOPPAL**

Chikungunya, viral fever, diarrhoea - all these ailments are being detected in the flood-hit areas of Koppal. People, who were worried about the gushing water around them, are now concerned about the spread of water-borne diseases. The number of patients visiting the centre with complaints of fever and bodyache has gone up after the heavy rains and floods.

Water-borne diseases generally spread through mosquitoes. Chikungunya, particularly, is caused by a mosquito which breeds on fresh water. After the flooding, sources for breeding of mosquitoes are many. As a result, the disease is spreading rapidly. The staff informed that basic amenities could not be offered to in-patients at the health centre, which is the only one in 19 villages. As there was no power supply, for cases that came after dark, the doctors were forced to deliver babies in candlelight!

The villagers of Chikkasindogi fetch water from a handpump at Gali Durgamma temple, about a kilometre from the village. Those in Hiresindogi depend on Hirehalla water for drinking too. They are not getting good water and unable to boil water as they cannot enter their houses which are in dilapidated condition. Most of the people and children are suffering from cough and fever.

## **DAVANAGERE**

In Davangere 506 houses collapse, 14 cattle washed away on Wednesday night. The rain related loss is estimated at Rs 17.58 lakh. Five are seriously injured in house collapse. The district has received average of 33.5 mm rain. Harapanahalli has received the height amount of rain of 54.8 mm. Here around 271 houses have collapsed. Aladahalli, Kunemadihalli, Nagarkonda and Hagarisheeranahalli are totally inundated. Talavagal tank has breached.

## **BELLARY**

The rhythms of life have been disrupted by the ruinous floods in village after village of Siruguppa taluk in Bellary district, triggering a mass migration which will take weeks, if not months, to reverse. When the rains came and the water level in the Tungabhadra and Hagari rivers swelled and spilled over the banks, swallowing huts and brick-built houses, the people took refuge on treetops and other sturdier buildings. But as the gushing and swirling water entered the villages, devouring everything that stood in its way, the people ran for their lives. Two months back, Bellary was declared drought-hit. At that time, the people of Siruguppa taluk made do without much water. Now, with water being the cause of their miseries, they have left their villages where their homesteads once stood.

The disastrous flood have flattened standing crops in the taluk, leaving middle-class farmers wondering how they would fend themselves in the months to come.

## **UTTARA KANNADA**

After the heavy rains and landslides, the residents have begun returning from the gruel centres with worries over resuming their life from the scratch. Some of them are left with nothing but the clothes they have worn. Their houses are filled with mud and stones, and foul smell emanates from them.