



Post Rain Needs Assessment Report

District Tharparkar

August 2017

Report by:

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1. Introduction

This **Post Rain Needs Assessment Report of District Tharparkar** is consisting of primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected through 5 Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) organized in five villages located in Taluka Nagarparkar and Islamkot. The secondary data has been collected from newspapers and Govt. departments.

The purpose of this rapid assessment is;

- To share after-rain situation of the District Tharparkar with partners and relevant stakeholders aiming to support vulnerable population of Tharparkar.
- To identify areas of interventions for immediate support of most deserving population of District Tharparkar.

The report explains after-rains effects on the lives of Thari people and on the natural environment of Thar Desert. This report includes the crucial needs of community which have been identified through consultation meetings with community and further, various programmatic approaches has been discussed to support community.

2. After Rain Situation of Tharparkar

The annual rain shower is a blessing for people living in the Thar desert and after a prolong drought of last 4 years, the importance of current monsoon rains in Tharparkar is beyond words as it has begun very much on time (during end week of June 2017) and covered almost entire area of Tharparkar District. The arid desert of Thar has so far received three spells of moderate to heavy rainfalls, bringing some relief to the rain-deprived desert.

Deputy Director of the Meteorological department at Mithi, Dinesh Lal said that the entire region had already received more rain compared to the last couple of years and early in the current season, too. He said a continuous low pressure system persisted in Rajasthan and other bordering areas of Thar which suggested further rainfall here at least until August 10. With many areas of the Thar desert region including Islamkot, Mithi and Nagarparkar as well as hundreds of villages receiving moderate rain for the 10th consecutive day till 24 July 2017. The Met office in Mithi forecast more rains till Aug 10. The region has recorded close to 400 mm of rain since the first spell of the current monsoon, according to one estimate.¹

The desert is suddenly buzzing with activity as people become occupied with cultivating the land as the dull, arid landscape transforms into a luscious green. In spite of all worries that farmers has faced to pay higher prices to buy seeds, farmers are looking very positive about having good yield of production out of their crops but on other side their fears cannot be overlooked. Current rains are very much supportive for local vegetation and this year various native varieties have grown by the farmers and fresh vegetables are visible in the markets for sell.

1 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1347419> - Dawn News- July 25, 2017.



Picture 2: Dawn News- 24 Jul 2017 - <https://www.dawn.com/news/1347360>

Spontaneous view of green rangelands which appeared after rains have filled the heart of local nomadic livestock herders with immense pleasure as for next 4 to 6 months fodder will be available for their livestock and they would not buy fodder on credit. Many locals who were forced to migrate due to the long drought have started returning to their homes after rain in Nangarparkar, Mithi, Islamkot and other parts of Thar.

Most of the visitors, tourists and picnickers coming to Nagarparkar and appreciating the lush green landscape, mountains and scenic views dotted with falls-like flowing rainwater. At the moment, Tharparkar especially landscape and mountainous areas in Nagarparkar have turned into a permanent tourist place and most-visited part of the country. This short-lived phenomenon depended on heavy rainfall alone. The crowd of outsiders in Tharparkar is benefiting to increase sales of local shop keepers and hotels as they offer them ready made food in bit higher prices to earn seasonal profit.

RAIN DATA UPDATE

Tharparkar Rain Data Taluka wise in millimeter (mm)

S#	DATE	MITHI	ISLAMKOT	NPK	CHACHRO	DAHLI	KALOI	DIPLO
1	26-JUN-2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	24

S#	DATE	MITHI	ISLAMKOT	NPK	CHACHRO	DAHLI	KALOI	DIPLO
2	27-JUN-2017	0.4	0	0	3	1	0	0
3	28-JUN-2017	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
4	29-JUN-2017	0	0	0	0	0	15	35
5	30-JUN-2017	17	3	24	0	2	0	70
6	1-JUL-2017	1	74	8	6	0	25	0
7	2-JUL-2017	5	2	3	10	15	0	0
8	15-JUL-2017	24.6	5	14	8	20	14	17
9	16-JUL-2017	3	0	3	2	0	0	2
10	17-JUL-2017	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	18-JUL-2017	1	0	0	0	0	0	35
12	19-JUL-2017	11	0	0	0	0	3	0
13	20-JUL-2017	3	7	4	0	0	1	0
14	21-JUL-2017	22	72	50	12	30	0	10
15	22-JUL-2017	4	0	26	0	0	0	0
16	23-JUL-2017	37	40	33	32	5	0	39
17	24-JUL-2017	4	15	13	10	3	2	40
18	29-JUL-2017	5	0	20	15	0	0	0
19	30-JUL-2017	51	44	42	22	8	8	56

3. Sector wise Effects of Rains and relevant needs of Community

In the current scenario, overall needs of the community which may categorized into different sectors are very much effected by the ongoing or upcoming rains as according to the Met Department Mithi another spell of rain is expected till August 10. In this way, it is better to understand various needs of the community arising after rains and their positive effects on their life if these would be fulfilled on immediate basis.

S#	Rain Effects	Needs (arising out of obstinate problems caused by droughts)	Programmatic Support to fulfill needs
1.	Rain Water Harvesting: Current water infrastructures are full of water to be used by community for drinking.	Small dams/reservoirs across the Thar region must be set up to store more rainwater in order to restore natural beauty to stay	Cash for Work programing to rehabilitate current infrastructure in order to improve their water holding capacity and new communal

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		longer but also to cater potable water to meet the needs of drinking water of more population. Small reservoirs would also help cope with the health issues relating to both humans and animals.	structures (i.e. wells, ponds, hand pumps) and household level water structure for rain water harvesting could be considered.
2.	<p><u>Food Security- Agriculture:</u> Farmers have cultivated their lands to grow seasonal crops. So far, timely rains have supported the natural process of cropping but another rain with sufficient gap is required for good production.</p>	Production of more food is needed because farmers are not able to enjoy fully in case of good crop as they will left with small portion of production after paying off the credit to money lenders.	Cash for Work programing can benefit as household kitchen gardening, chicken farming etc to improve food security of the vulnerable households.
3.	<p><u>Livestock Management:</u> Although the fodder is available for livestock after rains but extensive grazing and the risk of seasonal diseases may give loss to farmers.</p>	Community should have proper knowledge about livestock management which included timely vaccination. Community should have strong Village Committees having trained people in livestock management to build linkages with Livestock department to avail vaccines and de-worming medicines.	Cash For Training can help people to improve their knowledge in livestock management and timely vaccination can protect their livestock which are their most valuable assets.
4.	<p><u>Health and Nutrition:</u> Availability of sweet water for drinking is the immediate effects of rains as required by the desert area and cultivation of crops may bring food for the malnourished families affected by prolong drought. Cases has been identifying of viral disease chikungunya, transmitted through infected mosquitos.</p>	Prolong drought has increased Malnutrition cases and under-five children are particularly at risk. Current crops will take reasonable time to be matured enough for harvesting, which may probably start in end of September or in beginning of October. Months before, harvesting season are difficult period for farmers to avail food for their family.	<p>1. Relief of Non Food Items: Mosquito nets, water purification tablets, de worming tablets, water cans can be good support for deserving families.</p> <p>2. Mobile Medical and Medical Camp will be helpful to identify Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) to be treated through food</p>

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			supplements and Sever Acute Malnutrition (SAM) to be referred to Hospital for immediate treatment.

4. Risks and Vulnerability Assessment

In spite of beautiful scenario of District Tharparkar after good spell of rains, various risks are too associated with current situation which may further increase the vulnerability of the local people. Therefore, this assessment was conducted in consideration of both in order to formulate better programmatic strategy for the District Tharparkar.

- Standing crops require one more rain to sustain till maturity and in case of failure of rain productivity become lower than expected by farmers – this will ultimately cause to food insecurity.
- Crop failure will increase vulnerability of poor farmers as they will not be able to pay back loans taken from money lenders to buy seeds – for last 4 years, many farmers have continuously taking seeds on loans but failed to grow any crop due to insufficient rains.
- Viral/seasonal diseases (i.e. malaria, chikungunya etc) and infections in people may cause to great loss of losing human lives particularly under-five malnourished children.
- Uncontrolled grazing of massive population of livestock on rangelands is a major cause of land degradation which reduces its strength for natural vegetation and to grow useful plants.
- Interaction of Livestock herds on the rangelands may provide suitable environment for transmission of viral infections and diseases this may cause immediate death of herds resulting which may further lead to economic loss and overwhelmed depression in the local people.
- At the upcoming occasion of Eid-ul-Ezha, local farmers will sell their healthy livestock and weak livestock will be keeping in their herds which are at more risk to suffer seasonal diseases and infections –
- Insufficient and inaccurate information about the effects of recent rains on Thar Desert may reduce the support of vulnerable population – as inconsistent rains in future may cause to loss in agriculture that will increase food insecurity.