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Cyclone DANA

Rapid Needs Assessment Report

In the Aftermath of Cyclone Dana in Odisha in October, 2024

Background

Cyclone 'Dana' intensified on October 21, 2024. By October 22, it had developed into a severe tropical cyclone, with estimated maximum sustained surface wind speeds of 100-120 kilometers per hour. It crossed the Odisha coast with devastating impact. Early on the morning of **October 25, 2024, Cyclone 'Dana' made landfall** with wind speeds exceeding 110 kilometers per hour between Bhitarkanika and Dhamra in the Rajnagar block of Kendrapara, as reported by the IMD in Bhubaneswar. This disaster affected several coastal districts in Odisha, including Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Jagatsinghpur, and Balasore.

Cyclone 'Dana' caused significant damage in Odisha, particularly in coastal areas like Bhadrak, Kendrapara, and Balasore. Approximately **3.6 million people across 14 districts** were impacted by the storm. Nearly **810,000 residents were evacuated** to around **6,210 relief shelters before the cyclone's** landfall (Source: The New Indian Express). As the storm subsided, the number of active relief centers reduced, with many residents returning home once conditions improved. However, some areas remain submerged, particularly in Kendrapara and Bhadrak districts, which experienced extensive flooding and power outages.

These efforts reflect the urgent need for continued support and recovery initiatives to address the aftermath of Cyclone 'Dana' in the affected regions.

Impact/Extent of Damage

(in four most affected blocks in Kendrapada and Bhadrak district in Odisha)

- Districts Affected : **2 Bhadrak and Kendrapada**
- Most Affected Blocks : **4 Chandabali, Bsudevpur Rajnagar, Rajkanika**
- Gram Panchayats Affected: **27**
- Villages Affected : **98**
- Population Affected : **69,133**
- Houses Damaged : **2,610**
- Livestock Affected : **25,866**

Assessment Methodology

In the aftermath of Cyclone 'Dana,' a three-member team visited the affected areas of Kendrapada and Bhadrak districts from October 24-28, 2024. Our team conducted a rapid assessment by visiting cyclone-damaged villages and gathering information directly from households. Additionally, we engaged in discussions with local leaders, elected representatives, and officials from the revenue and disaster management departments to gain a clearer understanding of the cyclone's impact on the communities.

Purpose of the Immediate Visit:

- Conduct a rapid assessment to identify the priority needs of the affected population.
- Understand the relief measures provided by the government and other agencies.
- Map critical needs focusing on the most vulnerable people in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone.

This approach enabled us to gather essential information and ensure that the relief efforts are targeted and effective.

Extent of Damages

a. Communications

The cyclone has caused extensive disruption in communications and road networks. Numerous trees have been uprooted, severely affecting road access in **Kendrapada and Bhadrak** districts.



Telecom towers have been damaged, resulting in widespread outages of cellular and telephone networks.

In Rajnagar and Chandabali blocks, all telephone and cell phone services are down. Additionally, connectivity has been significantly impacted in Satabhaya and Talachua of Rajnagar block, as well as Dosinga and Jagula Gram Panchayats in Chandabali Block.

The roads have suffered due to the sea tide inundation, and floodwaters from the Baitarani River have further damaged roads in the Chandabali and Rajnagar areas.

b. Electricity

The power supply has been severely disrupted due to the uprooting of electricity poles, along with significant damage to substations and transmission lines. This has resulted in widespread power outages across the affected areas, complicating recovery efforts and impacting daily life.



c. Institutions

The cyclone has caused significant damage to educational and community institutions:

- Schools: 2 Primary/Upper Primary schools in Rajnagar, 2 in Rajkanika, 1 Basudevpur and 1 in Chandabali have been damaged by the cyclone and sea tide.
- Child care centre (Anangwadis): 14 Anangwadi centers have been flooded.
- Health Centers: 2 health centers have been affected.
- Community Facilities: In Dangamala Gram Panchayat, one community hall and a youth club have been damaged.

These damages highlight the extensive impact on essential community services and the need for focused recovery efforts.

d. Shelter

Shelter remains a primary concern as a significant portion of the population has lost their homes, with many houses either fully damaged or on the verge of collapsing. People are seeking refuge in both permanent and temporary shelters, such as public buildings, schools,

and community centers. Some individuals are even staying on the roadside, awaiting relief assistance.

The coastal areas, particularly the Satabhaya, Gupti, Dangamal, Rangani, and Talachua Gram Panchayats of the Rajnagar block in Kendrapada, and Doshinga, Jagula, Bansda, Jaleswarpur, and Jashipur Gram Panchayats of the Chandabali block in Bhadrak, have been significantly impacted by recurring cyclones. These regions, largely inhabited by the Bengali community, depend on agriculture, fishing, and daily wage labor as primary sources of livelihood. Cyclones have severely damaged crops and disrupted fishing activities, which are crucial to the local economy.

- Kendrapada District: Approximately **1,576 houses** in rural areas are totally or substantially damaged.
- Bhadrak District: Approximately **1,034 houses** in rural areas are totally or substantially damaged.

Kutcha Houses: Almost all households living in kutcha houses in the most affected villages in Kendrapada district have lost their homes and are staying in shelters, schools, or makeshift arrangements. All kutcha houses in Rajnagar, Chandabali, Basudevpur and Rajkanika blocks of Kendrapada and Bhadrak districts were found to be totally or substantially damaged.

Pucca Houses: About **1,657 pucca houses** across all districts have parts, such as kitchens that are kutcha. These kutcha portions were found fully damaged in Kendrapada district and partly



damaged in Balasore district. Pucca houses themselves have not suffered much damage, though some in all four districts, especially in Rajnagar and Chandabali blocks, sustained partial damages due to fallen trees or electric poles.

Displaced occupants have sought refuge in cyclone/flood shelters, temporary shelters, neighbors' homes, have temporarily moved to relatives' places, or are living in makeshift arrangements under dismal conditions.

The Jaynagar, Talachua, Rangali, Satabhaya, Siko, and Katana Bania Gram Panchayats in the Rajkanika and Rajnagar block are situated close to the Bhitarkanika National Park, renowned for its mangrove forests, saltwater crocodiles, and rich biodiversity. This area, near river sites that contribute significantly to the local ecosystem, plays a crucial role in shaping livelihood and agricultural practices.

e. Sanitation and Hygiene

In the cyclone-affected regions of Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Basudevpur and Chandabali, severe sanitation challenges have emerged. A total of **1,021 household toilets** have been damaged due to the cyclone. Before the cyclone, villagers regularly used these toilets; however, the storm caused extensive damage, leaving many sanitation facilities either heavily waterlogged or structurally compromised.

In areas such as Satabhaya, Dangamala, and Rongani Gram Panchayats of Rajnagar block, and Dosanga and Jagula Gram Panchayats of Chandabali block, toilets remain underwater due to persistent waterlogging. Additionally, in Ghadimal, Gupte, and other nearby Gram Panchayats, toilets have been significantly damaged. These conditions have forced many families to resort to open defecation, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and posing serious challenges to community hygiene.



f. Drinking Water

A total of **10,265 households** have been affected by the cyclone, which has contaminated local water sources. This makes it difficult for residents in the Rajanagar, Rajkanika, and Chandabali blocks to access safe drinking water. Many villages have had their piped water supplies cut off due to ongoing power outages. Consequently, residents are forced to rely on hand pumps and wells, many of which are either submerged or non-functional due to flooding and severe waterlogging.

As a result, the community is increasingly dependent on relief efforts to provide clean drinking water. This underscores the urgent need for additional water supplies and faster restoration of power to the affected areas.

g. Food and Nutrition

In the cyclone-affected regions of Rajnagar, Rajkanika, Basudevpur and Chandbali, food security has become a concern. Fields of rice, vegetables, and other crops have been completely devastated in areas such as Satabhaya, Dangamala, and Rongani Gram Panchayats of Rajnagar block, as well as Dosanga and Jagula Gram Panchayats of Chandbali block. Additionally, stored grains and food supplies have been damaged due to widespread flooding and waterlogging.

This disruption raises serious concerns about potential nutritional deficiencies, particularly among vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly. Immediate food assistance is essential to prevent malnutrition and safeguard the community's well-being during this challenging time. Furthermore, some households have reported not being included in the food security (Public Distribution System) scheme, leaving them without access to critical food resources.

Ensuring food security and adequate nutrition for these communities requires urgent attention and coordinated relief efforts.

h. Livelihoods

Cyclones frequently cause flooding and water logging, which has damage standing crops such as paddy, pulses, and vegetables. Saltwater intrusion significantly impacts soil fertility, reducing agricultural productivity. When seawater inundates farmlands during cyclones, it leaves behind salt deposits, making the soil less fertile for future crop cycles. Over time, erosion exacerbates these conditions, particularly in fields near the coast or rivers. In the Kendrapada and Bhadrak districts, a devastating event has resulted in the **loss of crops over a vast expanse of 5,428 acres**. This agricultural setback has affected four blocks within these regions, leading to significant challenges for the farming communities.

i. Livestock and Poultry

Cyclone Dana caused substantial losses to livestock and agriculture in Kendrapada and Bhadrak, affecting thousands of rural families. Heavy rainfall and storm surges led to severe flooding across these districts, stranding or **causing the loss of approximately 25,866 livestock**, especially in Kendrapada and Bhadrak.

- **Damage to Animal Shelters:** Many animal shelters were destroyed, leaving livestock exposed to the elements. Flooded or damaged grazing lands further limited available food sources, increasing the risk of malnutrition and starvation among the animals.
- **Disease Outbreak Risks:** The standing water and crowded, unsanitary conditions have raised serious concerns about disease outbreaks among the surviving livestock.

j. Educational Institutions

Cyclones and flooding due to Dana caused severe damage to primary and upper primary school buildings, including broken roofs (in few schools), waterlogged classrooms, and destroyed teaching materials. Schools used as shelters delay reopening, requiring repairs and cleaning. Prolonged closures disrupt education, leading to significant learning loss and increased dropout rates, especially among older students who may need to work or migrate with their families.

k. Health

In the cyclone-affected regions of Rajnagar, Rajkanika, basudevpur and Chandbali,



accessing healthcare has become a significant challenge. Flood waters have caused severe waterlogging around health centers, making it difficult for residents to reach essential medical services. In areas such as Satabhaya, Dangamala, and Rongani Gram Panchayats of Rajnagar block, as well as Dosanga and Jagula Gram Panchayats of Chandabali block, health centers are operational but surrounded by water, limiting access for patients and healthcare workers. Additionally, in surrounding Gram Panchayats, waterlogged roads and damaged infrastructure have delayed emergency medical assistance.

- These conditions have raised serious concerns about potential disease outbreaks, particularly diarrhea and cold fever.
- Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions, are at heightened risk.
- Displacement, property loss, and the uncertainty of returning home have heightened stress and anxiety among evacuees, particularly the elderly and children.

I. Protection

Children and vulnerable populations face heightened risks due to the cyclone's impact on their living conditions. With schools disrupted, limited shelter options, and sanitation challenges, these groups are exposed to various health and safety concerns. It is essential to safeguard them from potential exploitation and ensure their access to food, shelter, and hygiene facilities



during this recovery period.

In the Talachua and Satabhaya regions, many men work outside the state, leaving women and children particularly vulnerable during the storm. Staying in cyclone shelters was perilous for them. Several women shared their concerns related to safety during our discussions.

Action Taken

- *Clearing of Roads:* The process of clearing roads is ongoing. Efforts are focused on ensuring that roads are accessible for emergency services and the delivery of essential supplies.
- *Power Restoration:* The power restoration process is in full swing. Teams are working around the clock to repair damaged substations, transmission lines, and electrical poles to restore electricity to the affected areas.
- *Road Communication:* Road communication in Kendrapada and Bhadrak has been completely restored. Road clearance and restoration efforts are also ongoing in other districts, including Balasore, to ensure connectivity is re-established.
- *Evacuations and Shelter:* A total of **43583 individuals have been evacuated** from high-risk areas and provided with shelter in safe locations. This effort has been crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of the affected population.
- *Food Supplies:* Cooking food is being supplied at cyclone shelters to support evacuees. This provision ensures that those displaced by the cyclone have access to nutritious meals during their time in the shelters.

These actions highlight the coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact of Cyclone Dana and support the affected communities in their recovery process.

Actions Needed

a. Water Supply:

- Provide water tanker services in rural areas to ensure access to clean drinking water.
- Repair tube wells and other drinking water sources to restore functionality.
- Ensure water storage at shelters and households, especially where families have lost their storage containers.

b. Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Repair or construct temporary toilets to replace damaged ones.
- Clean and sanitize affected ponds, wells, and water bodies to prevent disease outbreaks.

- Promote hygiene and safe sanitation practices, particularly among children, adolescent girls, and women.
- Distribute sanitation kits, including sanitary napkins, soap, hand wash, and toothbrushes.

c. Shelter and Housing:

- Immediately supply shelter kits, lighting solutions, utensils, stoves, and financial support to households that have lost their homes.
- Maintain regular and temporary shelters for at least 15 days with food supplies to accommodate displaced families, allowing them to focus on repairing their homes.
- Provide mid to long-term support for rebuilding resilient houses.
- Offer free cooked food for at least 15 additional days to families whose homes have been completely destroyed.

d. Healthcare:

- Urgently restore all Anganwadi centres and ensure the supply of nutrients to children and pregnant/lactating mothers.
- Supply glucose, ORS, and other essential medical items.

e. Education:

- Run Mid Day Meal programs in schools of affected villages, even if schools are on vacation, to ensure children receive adequate nutrition.
- Repair damaged school buildings to resume educational activities as soon as possible.

f. Food and Nutrition:

- Provide rations, including cereals, pulses, and oil, to affected households.
- Ensure an additional supply of nutrient supplements for children and lactating mothers.
- Offer financial and material support to restore backyard/kitchen gardens.

g. Economic Support:

- Provide income support to all fishermen households for one month.
- Create immediate wage-earning opportunities through MGNREGS, cash-for-work programs, and similar schemes.

h. Privacy and Protection:

- Ensure the provision of privacy cubicles for women and adolescent girls for bathing and menstrual hygiene practices.
- Create Child Friendly Spaces to ensure the protection and well-being of children.

These comprehensive actions are essential to address the immediate needs and support the long-term recovery and resilience of the affected communities.





YOUTH FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (YSD)

9 Govinda Vihar, Near Ruby Eye Hospital, Lochapada, BERHAMPUR-760 001, Ganjam,
Odisha, INDIA Tel: +91-81143 97760, E-mail : info@ysdindia.org Website: www.ysdindia.org