



India

Western-Region
Cyclone Response

Situation Report #3

19th May 2021

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Yesterday's deep depression over Gujarat region moved northeastwards and weakened into a depression, it lay as a depression near latitude 24.9°n and longitude 73.7°e over southeast Rajasthan and neighboring states. It is very likely to move northeastwards and weaken gradually into a well-marked low pressure area during the next 12 hours.
- 26 dead, over 50 missing after barge sinks into Arabian Sea off the coast of Maharashtra
- Prime Minister undertook an ariel survey of the most affected districts of Gir Somnath, Bhavanagar, Amreli, Botad, and Junagarh of Gujarat.
- Prime Minister announced a financial package of Rs 1,000 crore (USD 135 M) for immediate relief measures in the areas hit by Cyclone Tauktae in Gujarat.
- Chief Minister, Gujarat mentioned during the press briefing that advance preparation and planning led to timely evacuation of at-risk people to the safer locations.
- Oxygen producers in Gujarat continue to supply oxygen to other states of the country including Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi without any hindrance. No plant has been disrupted due to cyclone.
- The Gujarat Chief Minister extended the suspension of COVID-19 vaccination drive for one additional day i.e. 19 May and it is now expected to resume on 20 May.
- UNICEF is on the ground and continues to respond to the cyclone in partnership with the interagency group of Gujarat as well supporting the Government-led response.

120+ lives lost (no child deaths reported) across various states

10 districts of Maharashtra have been impacted as **17** districts of Gujarat are impacted. **5** of these are worst affected.

1,532 houses damaged in Kerala

1,576 houses damaged in Maharashtra

16,500 houses damaged in Gujarat

1.1 million

Population affected in 421 villages

0.39 million

Child Population Affected

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

In the aftermath of Cyclone TaukTae, efforts are underway to assess and quantify the extent of the humanitarian impact and damage. Government reports at least 13 people were killed in Gujarat as a consequence of the cyclone, whereas media is reporting much higher figures. The return of evacuated people in the worst affected districts of Gir Somnath, Bhavanagar, Amreli, Botad, and Junagarh is slow while in other districts the majority people have returned. Evacuated people in mass shelters continue to receive food and other necessary items to practice COVID-appropriate behaviours in camps. The electricity and water supply infrastructure losses are being assessed and addressed on the go by state agencies. Out of 1,400 COVID-19 treatment facilities across the state, power supply in 16 hospitals was affected, out of which 12 have been restored and DG sets have been setup for power supply in the remaining four hospitals. Power supply is restored in 484 of the 2,437 affected villages. The COVID-19 vaccination drive was suspended for three days 17-19th May, to be resumed on 20th May. More than 16,500 houses were damaged, and more than 40,000 trees, 69,429 electric poles and 196 roads have been damaged. Water supply systems have been damaged in 5,951 villages according to initial reports.

Leadership and coordination

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited [Gujarat](#) today (19th May) to personally review the situation and the damage wrought by Cyclone TaukTae. The Gujarat Chief Minister is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating the response via the State Control Rooms. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel are assisting the civil administrations in Search and Rescue work in the affected districts of Gujarat.

The Chief Minister has communicated with Ministers, Collectors, District Development Officers in the most affected districts, keeping the entire system on alert mode. He raised concern over water supply, power supply and road cleaning.

The Inter-Agency Group of Gujarat, a coalition of humanitarian agencies supported by UNICEF is coordinating Civil Society Organisations response.

State Response

Following an aerial assessment of the most impacted districts, Prime Minister announced a financial package of Rs 1,000 crore (USD 135 M) for immediate relief measures in the areas impacted by Cyclone TaukTae in Gujarat. The entire administration has been instructed by the Chief Minister to focus on rescue and relief work. 17 pregnant women were relocated to hospitals from remote villages through the ambulance service of the National Health Mission for safe delivery in Rajkot. Mobile Health teams have been mobilised by Government, on standby should they be needed.

UNICEF Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF aims to support the provision of life-saving interventions for cyclone affected women and children through support to delivery of essential services by line-departments (mainstream service delivery mechanisms). UNICEF partners will provide on-ground implementation support to mobilise the most vulnerable to utilize the Government-UNICEF services, seek feedback from women, men, girls and boys, and monitor results. The response strategy aims to reduce the burden on the already over-stressed system that is responding to the COVID-19 crisis, and reduce exposure of cyclone affected women and children to COVID risk. To enable this, UNICEF is leveraging its partnership with the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) of Gujarat and the Disaster Risk Management System of the Government of Gujarat. Partnership with the IAG will help UNICEF leverage time, efforts, skills and reach of the civil society organizations for a joint rapid needs and vulnerability assessment and humanitarian response to address gaps in critical responses, whereas technical assistance to Government of Gujarat will enable coordination of life saving assistance and coordinated action for early recovery of social sectors (WASH, Health, Child Protection etc.). UNICEF will support line-departments to

ensure COVID sensitive sectoral response planning to addresses humanitarian needs in child protection, health, nutrition social protection and WASH.

UNICEF Actions

- UNICEF is supporting Gujarat- IAG to conduct a Joint Rapid Needs and Vulnerability Assessment in six cyclone affected districts followed by on-ground, humanitarian response to address the acute needs of the most vulnerable women and children.
- For Gujarat response, UNICEF is developing a multisectoral response plan (Health, WASH, CP) to support Government-led response. This is expected to include:
 - Technical assistance to the Government of Gujarat to strengthen coordination between state GSDMA, DDMA's and state IAG and CSO partners to enable coordinated action across levels, social sectors and Non- Government stakeholders.
 - Technical assistance to affected districts (Gir Somnath, Junagarh and Porbandar) at DDMA level for information management, rapid response planning to enable local, coordinated action between social sector line-departments, CSOs and CSR partners, and monitor the situation of children and most vulnerable and related reporting on response, and early recovery planning.
 - Advocacy and technical support to social sector line-departments for COVID-sensitive response
- In Maharashtra, One UNICEF consultant is stationed at the State Emergency Operation to provide information management support to emergency response operation of the Government of Maharashtra.

IAG Gujarat (CSO coordination mechanism supported by UNICEF):

Gujarat IAG has mapped available resources like field staffs, volunteers and pre-positioned relief items and has started coordinating CSO response by developing a 3W matrix. UNICEF, state IAG and Sphere India jointly planned a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment from tomorrow onwards. The assessment will cover six of the most affected districts, including Gir Somnath, Bhavnagar, Amreli, Botad, Junagarh and Anand. A total of 100 villages will be assessed at household and village level. IAG has started the process to establish district level coordination networks for constant communication between the district authorities and NGOs. District level focal NGOs have been identified for unifying the efforts being taken by other organizations in the district as well as the government measures that are already in place.

Funding and Partnerships

The Interagency Group of Gujarat and Sphere India at national level are prominent partners in the UNICEF India response strategy. UNICEF and Government of Gujarat have a long-standing partnership including an ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source of information:

- Government bulletins, Circulars from respective line departments
- Information from IAG and partner NGOs
- Media

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Annexure-I

Images of the Cyclone "TAUKTAE" in Gujarat



Commuters trying to wade through clogged road in Ahmedabad



NDRF personnel clearing the fallen trees from road



Damaged houses



NDRF personnel carrying out road clearance work-Diu



PM Narendra Modi conducts aerial survey of affected regions



Women and Children leave their homes and evacuate to safer places