

Flood Assessment of District Thatta

Brief history and Introduction of Thatta

Thatta is the historically rich and civilized city of Sindh. It is tail of river Indus, near to delta. As the river Indus has flooded the badly to entire Sindh which has ended at Thatta district, but its end is going so severe and serious. The dykes at Thatta were extremely vulnerable and feeble that they could not bear the increasing flow of water that touched the strength of 9,50,000 cusecs water. As soon as water touched the dykes of Thatta, water over flew the both banks of Indus River.



The District Thatta derives its name after it's headquarter town which is one of the oldest town and had been capital of Sindh. The District lies at 23°-42°, to 25°-26°, North

latitude and 67°-05°, to 68°-46° East latitude. It is bounded on the north by District Jamshoro, on the East Tando Muhammad Khan and Badin District on the South (Run of Kachh) and Arabian Sea, on the West is bounded by Karachi District.

The total Area of the District is 17,355 Square Kilometers whereas the population of the district is around 1.20 Million. District Thatta is administratively managed by 9 Talukas, 55 Union Councils, 75 Tappas and 656 Dehs. River Indus passes through Thatta by dividing the District in such a way that five Talukas viz: Thatta, Mirpur Sakro, Ghorabari, Ketibunder & Kharochan (Approximately half) i.e, Mirpur Bathoro, Sujawal, Jati and Shahbunder are on the left bank, fall on the Right Bank and four Talukas on left Bank of the River Indus.

The North Western Area of the District is hilly tract, known as Kohistan, which is the extension of the Kirthar Range. Southern and Western parts of the District are sandy and sea affected while the southern portion adjoining the Ran of Kachh is also desert like area with scattered habitation while the extreme tract is Kharo tract (Saline-Alkaline Tract).



A flood is an overflow of an expanse of water that submerges land. District Thatta occasionally experience the slow and fast kind of riverine flood in monsoon. The Indus River affects eight Talukas of District having length of 80 miles towards left bank and 93 miles towards right bank. Kotri Barrage is located at the tail of Indus River so the district has an advantage that enough time is always available for preparation as the flood warning is received in advance.

Normally, rainy season starts from June and lasts till September. The average Rainfall in the District is 10MM per year. In 2003 the rain started in the first week of June and lasted till August 2003. The total discharge capacity of the Canals in District Thatta is 16000 cusecs during torrential Rains the canals are closed to allow the accumulated rainwater to drain through these canals, apart from normal drainage system.

Breaches to River Indus and Canal at Thatta

Professional team of different organizations visited district Thatta, on August 29, 2010 to assess the magnitude of flood and how and where flood has badly affected and it has caused displacement, destruction, losses, internal migration and casualties. It was also assessed that at what level flood has destroyed standing crops of paddy, cotton, sugarcane and vegetable etc. Assessment team visited to Surjani Bank of Indus River and met the communities still which are sitting on the left bank of Indus River in open Sky, Chhatto Chand, Mikly and its suburbs and beaches happened in K B Feeder near Thatta city.



During the day long visit to flooded areas of Thatta, we could know that seven breaches have been occurred on different spots in district, Thatta. First largest and intensive breach has happened on the left side, at Surjani bank of Indus River, which has flooded seven sub divisions of Thatta and one sub division of district Badin, whereas, remaining six breaches have happened are small and can be closed with little efforts, but government personnel do not seem so serious and interested to close down these breaches soon, and deliberately allowing floodwater to inundated hundreds of villages and small towns, destroying crops, ruining thatched houses of poor people and giving losses to livestock and other valuable belongings of marginalized people.



Four Talukas of district Thatta are located on left side of the Indus River, whereas, three Talukas are on the right side. Twenty eight (28) union councils of these Talukas are affected. Population have been displaced and affected are .7 million, which have mainly moved to Mikly, Gharo, Dabeji, Gujo, Karachi. Small portion of population has also moved towards Badin, Tando Bago, Talhar and Hyderabad. Among these seven Talukas, most affected Talukas are Sujawal, Merpur Bathero and Thatta, and, in these Talukas, 11247 households have been destroyed of 210 villages. Total population have been displaced of these three talukas are 66,044 only. Details of these three taluks are also attached herewith.



During our backed to the Thatta city, on the way, there was a breach to K B feeder, very near to Thatta city, which was about to 150 feet long and its water was surging towards Thatta city. Efforts have been taken to close the breach, but it seems it will take time to be closed.

Thatta city gave deserted look. City seemed a dead city. No shop was opened to purchase goods for daily uses. Even no medical store was open for emergency purposes. Because, almost 90% people have evacuated city and have moved to Mikly and its premises which gave look of anarchy, as people were scattered and disordered roaming on the hilly areas.

It was informed by one of the community members that water is now rushing towards Badin district. Breach of left side of Indus River has also flooded two union councils of sub division Golarchi of district Badin. Magnitude of water is recorded so intensive and it is assumed it will hit other areas of district Badin soon, before flowing down to the Sea, if breach could not be closed.



The main road of Thatta-Badin is totally inundated. No vehicle is getting possible to move towards



Badin by road, as there is more than five feet water deep is standing on the surface of the soil. Only rescue boats were seen, which were also rare and very few in quantity.

As we reached at the Bridge of Indus River at Dam Dam stop, we could observe only sea of water on both banks of Indus. We could also observe the unbearable plight of humanity. As we moved towards breach on the left side of riverside, we saw people were sitting on the both banks of Indus. Children and women were sitting under roof of the Sky, and children and women sitting under the scorching beam seem irritable, disappointment, helplessness and looking for help and support. Awaken eyes of children and old women were looking at every crossing person saying them to support them, as they don't had shelter, drinking water, medication and any other facilities like latrine etc. Their eyes were clearly asking and sharing that they are starving and suffering from acute hunger.

Some of the children were also seen slept on earth and needed medication and nutrition immediately, for their survival. Situation was so dangerous. They really need assistance, support, help and sympathy to regain some strength to lead their lives with new spirit, with new hope, with new dream of building their lives with start.



It was also known that some communities and villages are still stranded, in more than six feet deep water. They need to be rescued and taken to safer place, as there were few rescue boats so they were not in position to take up stranded people immediately, in larger numbers. Therefore, there is need to rescue people and to move them towards safer places to hilly areas and Karachi.

Immediate needs of displaced persons:

1. Shelter
2. Food
3. Basic Health Facilities
4. Security
5. Clean drinking water
6. Nutrition for babies, children, child bearing mothers and pregnant women
7. Mikly is crowded heavily, there is fear of outbreaking of gastro and other waterborne diseases so they should be provided hygiene kits stop epidemic diseases



Assessment Team

1. Mr Abdulo Jabbar Bhatti-IIRE
2. Mr Punhal Sario-Sindh Hari Porhiat Council
3. Mr Niaz Hussain Bhatti-Agha Khan Education Services
4. Mr Rahil Qazi-Social Activist