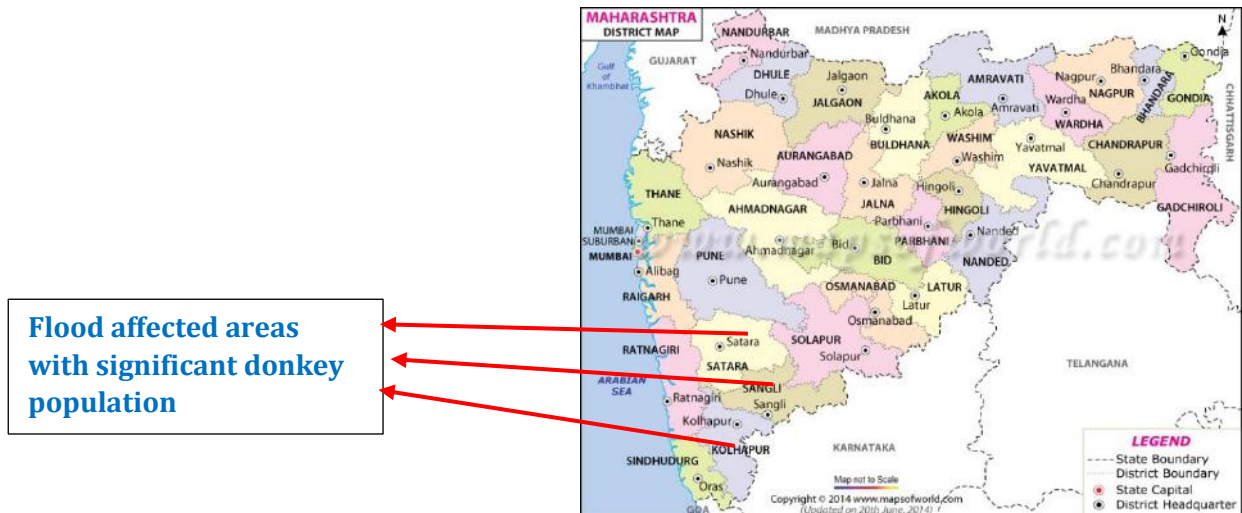


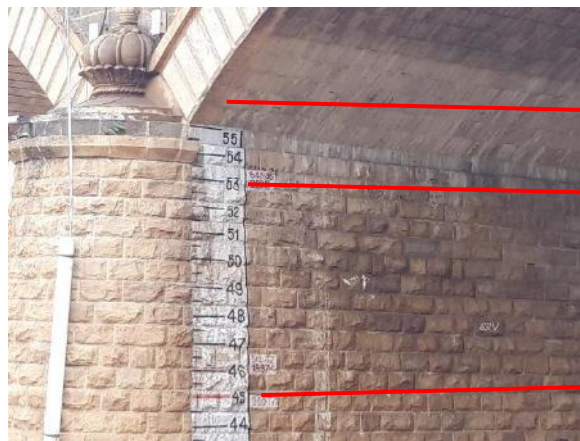
# REPORT ON DSWA FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS IN SANGLI AND KOLHAPUR DISTRICTS IN MAHARASHTRA

**Introduction:** The heavy rainfall and floods in early August had created havoc in the districts of **Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur** in Maharashtra state. More than 1.5 lakh people were affected by floods and had to be evacuated to safer places. Teams of Army, Navy and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and District administration were responsible for the rescue operations in these districts to reach the affected. A large number of livestock are also affected, and 89 deaths have been reported in the flood situation report by Sphere India. Based on the information gathered and situation analysis, DSWA sent a team to carry out flood relief operations in these areas to help the donkeys and the communities that own them as mentioned in the submitted proposal / action plan.



**Reasons for the floods :** Between 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019, rains battered south-western Maharashtra, and rising water levels in local rivers (Krishna and Panchganga) breached the banks. Over the next few days, areas in Pune, Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli saw large areas flooded, houses and roads damaged and lakhs of people displaced.

As water levels rose after the heavy rainfall, almost all the dams started discharging water. This was further aggravated by the untimely opening of **Almatti Dam** located in the neighbouring state of Karnataka. The position of Almatti dam is unique, as this is the first dam on Krishna river after it leaves Maharashtra. The amount released from the dam is important to prevent any flooding upstream of Krishna, which is Maharashtra. In this case, the discharge from the dam was low, though the Maharashtra side had seen the river swelling due to heavy rain and opening of all dam gates. As the amount of water released from Almatti was kept low, the water of Krishna kept coming back, which caused the water level in River Krishna rise to 58 feet well above the danger mark of 45 feet that led to the flooding and subsequent devastation to loss of lives, livestock, agriculture and properties. The previous high was recorded in 2005 when the water level reached 53 feet.



Water level in River  
- 58 Feet in 2019

53 Feet in 2005  
floods

45 Feet – Danger  
Level

22-08-19

- Necessary materials (Medicines, equipment's, Banners, protective wear) were organised in Solapur
- Networking and meetings with other NGO's were carried out
- DSWA team reached Sangli by road late in the evening

23-08-19

- **Meeting with Animal Rahat - Animal welfare organisation in Sangli** to get update on the donkey related issues due to floods in this region. Dr.Naresh Upreti – Chief Operating Officer asked Mr.Sudhir Chougule responsible for the donkey program to accompany us for the relief operations.



- **Meeting with District Animal Husbandry Department (Dr.Kiran Parag – District Animal Husbandry Officer and Dr.Sutar – Assistant DAHO)** to get an update on the present situation post floods in this district. They didn't have any data on donkey casualties and requested DSWA to help them in collecting this number through our relief operations. The DAHO have assured us that he will recommend the district administration (report to the District Collector) to get relief fund for the donkey owning communities that have lost their donkeys due to the floods. He said that Rs.16,000 is the amount that can be claimed for donkeys through the relief funds. The DAHO requested DSWA to work with them in this aspect so that the donkey owners can receive the benefits in this difficult time. He also asked DSWA to organise a training program for the Government Vets in Sangli.





- **Survey conducted** in the flood affected areas in Sangli.



The sites Vishnughat and Shamrao Nagar in Sangli (photos above) were the donkey owning communities live the worst affected as this is located very close to the riverbank. The houses in this area were in 8 feet water and rescue operations were carried out using boats. The damp areas on the walls of the houses indicate the water level.







**Water level during the floods in this area**

- **Meeting with Donkey owners** of Vishnughat and Shamrao Site to understand the present situation, collect data and plan relief work in consultation with the communities



- Resource mapping to identify the feed suppliers and medicine suppliers in Sangli. **Mayur feed suppliers** were willing to give feed at a discounted rates for the flood operations. Animal Rahat had also purchased feed from this dealer.





- **Medicines and mineral supplement purchased from Manish Medicals**



- **Relief operations in Krupamai Site with District Animal Husbandry Department and Animal Rahat organisation-** Health check conducted on 70 donkeys in this site, treatment provided to 6 donkeys and feed with mineral supplement fed to the donkeys. Owners in this site-5 and number of donkeys missing-7 after the floods. Dr.Kiran Parag and Dr.Sutar from the District Animal Husbandry Department accompanied us to see the relief work.





- **Relief operations in Vishnughat site.** Number of donkeys checked- 210, treated-21, Owners in this site-10, missing donkey number-68. We collected data on the number of owners and their donkeys in each site, donkeys missing / died / theft during and post floods.



- Relief operations in **Shamrao Site** - Number of donkeys checked-105, treated-11, Owners-7, number of donkeys missing-40







- **Relief operations in Subash Nagar site.** Number of donkeys checked -97, treated-12, owners-7, number of donkeys missing-19





- **Relief operations in Gandhi Chowk site.** Number of donkeys -270, treated-14, owners-18, number of donkeys missing-32



- **Relief operations in ST workshop site.** Number of donkeys-32, treated-4, owners-2, number of donkeys missing-none. The donkeys were fine and in good condition in this site.





- Media coverage – **Sakal Newspaper** published an article on DSWA's relief operations in the flood affected areas in Sangli. The article highlighted about donkeys, DSWA work in collaboration with Government AH Department and Animal Rahat- local NGO for the flood relief.



- Travel to Kolhapur district to conduct the survey and carry out relief operations. We visited Korochi village, Vadgaon and Jaysinghpur that has the donkey population to collect the data and provide help. The donkey population in this districts increases significantly only during the brick kiln season (Dec to May) and there was not many donkeys present during the floods and hence no casualties.





- **Relief operations in Jaysinghpur in Kolhapur district:** Number of donkeys -80, Owners-8, Treated -, donkeys missing- none.



**26-08-2019**

- Follow up and relief operations in Vishnughat site





- **Follow up meeting with Government Animal Husbandry departments** to share the data collected (details of donkey owners, donkey population, donkey casualties/missing), relief operations carried out in Sangli and Kolhapur and to discuss about the procedure to get the Government relief funds for the donkey owning communities that lost their donkeys during the floods. The District Animal Husbandry Officer Dr.Parag appreciated our work and said that he would mention about our contribution in his report to the District Collector. We were told to coordinate with the team (Veterinary Surgeon based at Sangli Veterinary polyclinic, revenue officer and police) responsible for the verifications and distribution of relief funds. We met Dr.Sawant and collected the necessary information and forms that need to be submitted.



Dr.Parag (DAHO)- Zilla Parishad



Dr. Sawant – Vet Polyclinic



- Meeting with the donkey owners to brief them about the procedure to process the application for relief funds. We helped them to fill the application forms and asked them to submit the same to the Vet In-charge at Veterinary Polyclinic.

