

## **Report on Dana Relief Distribution at Bhadrak District, Odisha**

1. **Programme/Project Name:** Cyclone Dana Relief Distribution in Bhadrak District, Odisha: Ensuring Recovery and Support for Affected Communities
2. **Objective:** Severe Cyclonic Storm Dana, a powerful tropical cyclone, struck the states of West Bengal and Odisha in India, making landfall near Baleshwar and Dhamra Port on October 24-25, 2024, with wind speeds of 100-120 km/h. In Odisha, the storm caused significant disruptions, with multiple roads blocked by uprooted trees up to six hours before landfall, and rainfall reaching 62 mm (2.4 in). Power infrastructure was severely impacted in isolated areas of Bhadrak and Kendrapara districts.

Two months after Cyclone Dana, continued relief intervention remained critical to address ongoing recovery needs. A total of 35.95 lakhs people have been affected with damage to homes, livelihoods, and need of rebuilding the houses. The focus during this phase shifted from immediate relief to long-term rehabilitation, aiming to restore housing, support livelihood recovery, and provide psychosocial support for the affected populations. Additionally, interventions focused on strengthening local infrastructure and building resilience, ensuring that communities were better prepared for future disasters. This comprehensive support was crucial in fostering recovery, improving resilience, and minimizing vulnerability in the long term.

**Rationale of the project:** Two months after Cyclone Dana, the relief distribution aims to address the ongoing needs of affected communities. Relief efforts focus on providing shelter kit support and hygiene kit prioritizing the restoration of livelihoods. The rationale is to ensure that aid reaches those in greatest need particularly those in remote or hard-hit areas and mostly people without any support such as persons with disabilities, single parent and old people. The delay allows for a more organized, targeted response, ensuring aid reaches the most vulnerable and that the recovery process is sustainable.

### 3. Activities assigned:

- **Coordination with the local authorities-** Before the distribution, volunteers collaborated with local authorities, such as municipal officers, community leaders, and village heads, to map out affected areas, assess the number of beneficiaries, and identify distribution points. This ensures that the most vulnerable populations are prioritized and that aid reaches remote or hard-to-access locations.
- **Permission from the authorities-** A formal request to local authorities, such as local leaders, ward members, sarpanchs detailing the scope, purpose, and logistics of the distribution. This includes specifying the types of aid being distributed (shelter materials, hygiene kits, etc.), the number of beneficiaries, and the proposed dates and locations.
- **Identification of the vulnerable HH-** Vulnerable households (HHs) was identified through a community-based assessment, where 1 field-level community group was formed consisting of 5 members from the community to assist in the kit distribution process from identifying and verifying the deserving beneficiaries with the local leaders, sorting the kits according to the village wise to be loaded in the vehicle for distribution in different locations, taking photographs, and addressing to the complaints from the community regarding distribution of the kits to the limited people. The identification of beneficiaries involved collaborating with local leaders to ensure that the most affected families received priority.
- **Survey of the identified HHs and verification by the community-** Field team conducted surveys to gather detailed information about the identified households. The survey typically included data on household composition, and the extent of damage caused by the disaster. This helped in ensuring that the aid provided is tailored to the needs of each household.
- **Distribution process-** Tokens were distributed to the finalized HH and information for date, time and venue of the distribution was shared.

Distribution points were carefully selected, ensuring accessibility for all beneficiaries. Arrangements at the centers included setting up registration desks for HH verification, and systems were put in place to address any complaints or issues during the distribution process. Support staffs were assigned to assist with verification, resolve disputes, and maintain transparency in the distribution of relief materials. This approach ensured effective and fair delivery of aid to those in need.

- **Complaint Response Mechanism:** There were no complaints regarding the kit but about 60 people complained on why some were not given the kit which was addressed by the local volunteers. Even there was email id and number mentioned people hesitated to call up.

In coordination with local authorities, permissions were obtained to conduct relief activities in Bhadrak District. Information was shared with relevant stakeholders, including district officials, community leaders, and local NGOs, to ensure smooth execution.

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#### **4. Major Highlights/Important Events:**

- Targeted beneficiaries were identified and verified by the local volunteers
- Comprehensive relief packets for long term recovery
- Working alongside local organizations and volunteers to ensure smooth and effective distribution, leveraging their knowledge of the community
- Providing sanitation kits and promoting hygiene awareness to prevent disease outbreaks in affected communities
- Actively involving local leaders and residents in the distribution process to ensure transparency, fairness, and local ownership.

Kit type	Items	Qty
Wash Kit	Face masks	5
	Toothbrush	5
	Toothpaste	2
	Cotton towel	1
	Sanitary pads	2 Pkt
	Nail cutter	1
	Washing soap, powder	
	Bathing Soap	5
	Buckets with lid	1
	Bucket without lid	1
	Mug	1
Shelter NFI Kit	Tarpaulin sheet	1
	Mosquito net	1
	Floor mat	1
	Rechargeable solar light	1
	Nylon plastic rope	20 meter
	Blanket	2

## 5. Activities carried out:

- a) **Group Formation:** Volunteers organized into 1 team consisting of 5 members to ensure effective coordination during the distribution process. Group was formed based on specific tasks such as registration, distribution, crowd management, and logistics.
- b) **Orientation and Training:** Volunteers received an orientation to understand the objectives of the relief effort, the contents of the kits, and the proper distribution procedures. This includes familiarizing them with the target beneficiaries, ensuring they know how to identify vulnerable individuals, and explaining the importance of fairness and transparency.
- c) **Coordination and Planning:** Prior to distribution, a detailed survey was carried out to identify the beneficiaries. Coordination with local authorities, community

leaders, and other stakeholders ensures that the distribution is efficient and reaches all affected areas.

- d) **Information Sharing:** Clear communication was established with the community and volunteers, sharing information on the distribution schedule, locations, and the types of kit being provided. This helped reduce confusion and ensured that those in need are aware of when and where to collect their kits.
- e) **Kit Distribution:** On the day of distribution, volunteers assisted in the registration and verification process of 405 beneficiaries of Basudevpur and Chandbali block to ensure that relief kits are given to the right individuals or families. The kits typically included essential items such as shelter materials, hygiene products, and buckets.

## 5. Challenges:

- a) **Permission Delays:** Obtaining necessary permissions from local authorities took time, causing initial delays in the relief distribution process.
- b) **Identification of Vulnerable Households:** During door to door survey many argued upon the distribution to only the vulnerable group as they were also affected by the cyclone Dana. Identifying the most vulnerable households (HHs) proved challenging due to incomplete data and the need for careful verification of affected families amidst the widespread devastation.
- c) **Community Coordination:** Forming effective field-level community groups posed difficulties due to logistical challenges and coordination issues among various community leaders and local organizations.
- d) **Accessibility to Distribution Points:** Selecting distribution points that were both accessible and safe for all beneficiaries was a challenge, especially in remote or heavily damaged areas with damaged roads.
- e) **Verification Process:** Ensuring proper HH verification at the distribution centers was a complex task, as some beneficiaries lacked proper identification documents, leading to confusion and delays.

- f) **Handling Complaints and Disputes:** Managing complaints and disputes regarding the fairness of distribution required constant attention, as some beneficiaries felt overlooked or misunderstood, leading to frustration.
- g) **Resource Limitations:** Limited manpower and resources at distribution centers created bottlenecks, leading to slower-than-expected distribution and increased wait times for beneficiaries.
- h) **Transparency Maintenance:** Maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the distribution process was difficult, given the high volume of beneficiaries and the potential for misunderstandings.

These challenges were addressed through continuous communication with stakeholders, on-the-ground adjustments, and maintaining a focus on equitable aid delivery.

#### **Learnings:**

- a) **Timely Permission Acquisition:** It is crucial to begin the process of obtaining permissions well in advance to avoid delays and ensure smooth relief operations.
- b) **Effective Data Collection:** A thorough and updated database of affected households is essential for accurate identification of vulnerable families. Community-based assessments and collaborations with local leaders are vital for verification.
- c) **Strengthened Community Coordination:** Building strong relationships with community leaders and local organizations early on can streamline coordination and improve field-level support during relief activities.
- d) **Accessible Distribution Points:** Pre-selecting multiple accessible distribution points, taking into account road conditions and safety, can help ensure timely delivery to all affected beneficiaries, especially in remote areas.

- e) **Simplified Verification Process:** A flexible verification process that accommodates beneficiaries without proper documentation is necessary, along with clear communication about what is required for identification.
- f) **Proactive Complaint Handling:** Establishing clear channels for addressing complaints and disputes at distribution centers ensures better resolution and prevents frustration among beneficiaries.
- g) **Adequate Resource Allocation:** Ensuring sufficient manpower, equipment, and supplies at distribution centers is key to avoiding bottlenecks and ensuring timely and efficient aid distribution.
- h) **Enhanced Transparency and Communication:** Clear, consistent communication with beneficiaries regarding the distribution process and criteria can help maintain trust, reduce confusion, and improve overall transparency.

By addressing these areas, future relief efforts can be more efficient, equitable, and responsive to the needs of affected communities.

## 6. Testimonials/ Case stories with Images

### Case Story: A Widow's Struggle and Hope after the Dana Cyclone



Gourilata Das is a 39-year-old widow living in a small, rural village in Badahebilisahi of Balimunda Panchayat in Bhadrak, Odisha. After losing her husband to an accident two years ago, she has been the sole breadwinner for her family. She cares for her 3-year-

old daughter and her elderly mother-in-law, who suffers from chronic illness and requires constant attention and medication. She works as a daily wage laborer, struggling to meet the basic needs of her family. However, the situation became even more dire after the devastating Dana Cyclone destroyed their small home, leaving them without shelter and little hope. The cyclone completely wrecked Gourilata's modest house, leaving the family exposed to the elements. She had lost not only her home but also the little stability she had. Her daily wages, already insufficient to cover basic needs, were now stretched even further as she had to care for her aging mother-in-law and young daughter. The cost of her mother-in-law's medication, combined with the loss of shelter and the pressing need for food, pushed her to a breaking point.

The Dana Cyclone Kit didn't just provide material relief—it gave her a renewed sense of hope and a brief respite from the overwhelming pressure of caring for her family. It was a reminder that even in the face of adversity, help can come when it's needed most. Her resilience, combined with the support of the kit, allowed her to continue her fight for a better future for her daughter and mother-in-law.

### **Supporting the Most Vulnerable: A Case Study of Relief Aid for a Blind Woman after Cyclone Dana**





In the aftermath of Cyclone Dana, a single blind woman from Bhadrak District, Odisha, was among the beneficiaries who received a relief kit. Having lost her home and access to basic necessities, she had been struggling to survive in the devastation, with no support from family or community members. Her isolation was compounded by her blindness, making it difficult to navigate through the challenges of daily life, let alone seek help.

When relief distribution teams arrived in her area, they prioritized her as part of the vulnerable group. The kit she received included essential items like food, sanitation supplies, and hygiene products. She expressed deep gratitude for the aid, as she had been surviving on limited resources and had no external support.

Her case highlighted the importance of reaching the most vulnerable individuals—those who are often overlooked—ensuring they receive the care and support they need for survival and recovery.

### **Ensuring Support for the Vulnerable: Relief Aid for a Disabled Elderly Man After Cyclone Dana**



In the aftermath of Cyclone Dana, a disabled elderly man from Dhamra, Bhadrak, was among the recipients of the relief distribution efforts. The man, who lives alone, had been struggling to cope with the devastation caused by the cyclone. His daughter, who is married, lives in another village and is unable to provide him with regular support.

With his physical disabilities limiting his mobility, he found it difficult to secure basic needs like food, water, and shelter after the disaster.

Prior to the arrival of the relief team, the elderly man had been surviving on what little he could manage on his own. The cyclone had destroyed his shelter, and his limited physical capacity made it nearly impossible for him to rebuild or access aid. When the relief distribution team arrived in his area, the man was identified as a vulnerable beneficiary. He was provided with a relief kit containing food supplies, sanitation items, and other essentials for survival.

The elderly man expressed immense gratitude for the aid, as he had been facing isolation and hardship for days. His case underscored the importance of reaching out to elderly individuals and people with disabilities, ensuring they are not overlooked in times of disaster, and highlighting the need for community support systems.

### Relief Support for a Family in Basudevpur, Bhadrak



In Basudevpur, Bhadrak, a househead man suffering from mental illness was struggling to care for his wife and 10-year-old son. Due to his condition, he was unable to work and provide for his family's basic needs, leaving them without enough food and resources. The family lived in poor conditions, with inadequate shelter and limited access to hygiene essentials.

When the relief team arrived, they provided a shelter and hygiene kit, which was a lifeline for the family. The shelter kit allowed them to improve their living conditions by repairing their home, while the hygiene kit provided essential items like soap, sanitary products, and disinfectants. These supplies greatly eased their burden, ensuring they had a safer and healthier living environment. For the family, receiving this support was a source of immense relief, offering not just physical aid but also hope for a better future.

- 7. Permissions obtained:** Permission was granted by the local leaders and Sarpanchs, who were actively present during the distribution, to oversee the management of the community. They played a crucial role in ensuring that the identified beneficiaries received their kits in an organized and fair manner. Their involvement helped facilitate smooth coordination and strengthened the sense of trust within the community, ensuring that aid reached those most in need.

**8. OUTREACH DATA**

No of male below 18	No. of female below 18	No. of male between 18 to 50	No. of female between 18 to 50	No of male above 50	No of female above 50	Total family member
52	88	72	115	60	79	85

No of male with disability	No. of female with disability	No. of male with critical illness	No. of female with critical illness	No. of Transgenders
85	95	87	50	2

**Glimpses of Dana Cyclone and Distribution:**



**Relief Distribution Photographs:**



Sl	Content	Units	Quantity per lot
1	Farm Mask	Pc	5
2	Tooth brush	Pc	5
3	Toothpaste	Pc	2
4	Barb Soap	Pc	5
5	Wash center	Pc	1
6	Washing	Kg	1 Kg
7	Foodstuffs		
8	Bucket with	Pc	1
9	Id		
10	Bucket	Pc	1
11	Sanitary pad	Pc	1
12	Mug	Pc	1
13	Sanitary	Pc	1 Pkt
14	Soap	Pc	1
15	Cotton Cloth	Pc	1

