

River Swat Flood Situation Report

River Swat is still in high flood and the water level is expected to rise. There is a rapid rise in the flow of the river since mid June, fluctuating between 45000 cusecs to 60000 cusecs, assuming a level almost double to the normal of 30000 cusecs. The flooding water has claimed several lives and thousand acres agriculture land has been submerged.

Human Losses

Four Army officials drowned in to the river while they were getting training in the along side the river in Ushu area of Kalam Swat. Two locals slipped into the river at Gorkin and Kokonil areas of Swat. On 19th of July 2005, two persons, father and son lost their lives when a wooden bridge collapsed due to the pressure of water and they drowned in to the water at Mankial area. Three other persons, two women and a child slipped into river at khwazakhela while walking on a protection wall along the river Swat. Women were rescued by the villagers and rushed to the hospital and the boy lost his life. On 20th July, another 13-year-old boy drowned into the river at Nawekaley/Charbagh, when he was taking bath on the bank of river. Police recovered an unknown dead body at Bamakhela Swat.

Losses to agricultural land and infrastructure

The rise in the flow of river damaged part of the Kalam – utror road. The road remained closed for five days. Three small bridges were also damaged at utror area, which connected small villages with the main road. Two houses were totally damaged due to the increase in the river water. The river also caused damage to Kokonil village road at Kalam. The main road of Kalam has also been damaged on three places from Behrain to Kalam.

Due to the rise in the flow of water, river has changed its direction in many areas, submerged new land and damaged standing crops of the people.

The river drowned a large tract of land with standing crops and also exposed the main pipeline of Sui Northern Gas to Mingora city at Ghalegey area. Hundreds of families were affected, as they were dependant only on the devastated land. The affected families were small tenants who cultivated two to three acres of land on lease basis.

Another wave of flood damaged more than 300 acres land at Goratai village, affecting 45 to 60 tenants who cultivated onion and rice on the land. Some 200 families are reported to have been affected from Goratai to the Landakai area of the district. Waves of water washed away three small bridges and destroyed an irrigation canal, which irrigated land of villages Goratai, Aboha, Kota and Landakey.

Similar damages to the agricultural fields in Takhta Bund, Malakabad, Nul, upper and lower Bamakhela, Drushkhela, Aligrama, Akhund Kelay, Jalawanan, Ghoreja.

Swat Youth Front contacted District Revenue Department to get official data of the total submerged or damaged agricultural land in district Swat. The department has already started collection of data. According to the department it will take four days to complete the process.

Response

The Sui Northern asked for new route in the agricultural fields of Village Ghalegey, to save the pipeline from the floods. People of the village demanded construction of a protection wall to the already damaged agriculture fields first and refused permission to start work otherwise. Sui Northern management acceded the demands.

The management of SYF visited Goratai village alongwith District Coordination Officer. DCO was taken to the affected area. The DCO approved an amount of 2000 rupees for the repair of the Musa Khel irrigation channel, which is the only source of water to a large area.