

A snapshot of EHA's response to disasters in

- Uttar Pradesh & - Jammu & Kashmir (September-November 2014)

MASSIVE FLOODING IN UTTAR PRADESH (UP)



Due to heavy rainfall in Nepal mid-August 2014, most of the rivers including Rapti, Ghaghara, Sharda and Sarayu were overflowed leading to flood situation in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Water was released from Rapti dam on Nepal border as a result Rapti, which was already swelling, was flowing five-feet above the danger mark. Official sources reports about 89 human lives as on Thursday, 21 August 2014. The flood water entered and caused damaged to about 1500 villages in 8 districts affecting a population of about 8.6 lakhs.

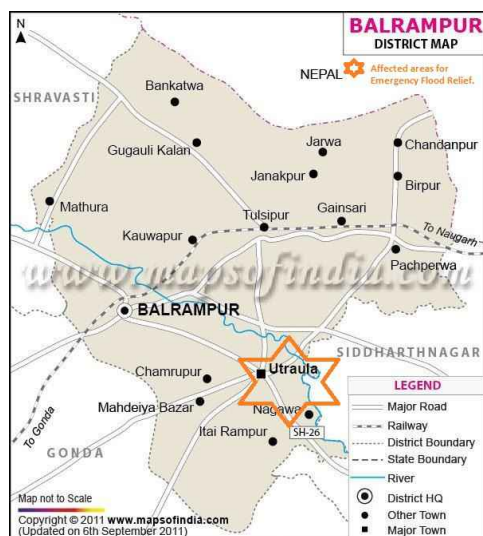
Floods in Uttar Pradesh have raised fears of damage to the crops like rice, wheat, brinjal, ladiesfinger and sugar cane etc as 0.6 million hectares of arable lands have been submerged. Rising water levels has hit road and rail traffic.

EHA's Response in Balrampur District:

Background: Balrampur town is located on the bank of the Rapti is the district headquarters is located in the northern border with Nepal's Dang Deukhuri district. In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Balrampur one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). The flood water started entering in some districts of Uttar Pradesh on 17th August 2014 but it began to engulf Balrampur district encroaching the villages around Utraula by 20th August 2014. According to the report many villages have been marooned in three tehsils namely: Tulsipur, Utraula and Balrampur. EHA's Prem Sewa Hospital team confirmed the same and began its initial assessments on 21st August 2014. Six persons were killed in flood affected areas in Balrampur district, official sources said. Several mud houses and kuccha brick houses collapsed and damaged. About 1.5 lakh people in 150 villages are affected in the district.

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Seeing the ravaged damaging outcome of the flood, the Prem Sewa Hospital team immediately provided cooked food across the villages around Utraula by boat on 21st August afternoon. They began to reach other inaccessible marooned villages with a boat provided by the local authority. This initiative continued for 3 days reaching out food and safe drinking water to more than 1000 people in 8 villages.

In the meanwhile EHA's Disaster Management & Mitigation Unit (DMMU) developed an Action Plan and shared with concerned partners after Rapid Spot Assessments. Partners like Tear Fund UK, Tear Australia and CBM quickly responded and the Disaster Relief Plan in UP was approved.

DMMU team worked out the overall Relief Operation

Management plan forming base **Emergency Relief Committee** to begin the response immediately with the *goal of this relief program is to Alleviate suffering and hardship of 10000 people affected by floods in 25 villages in Utraula block in Balrampur district.*

The team at Prem Sewa Hospital, Utraula deserves appreciation for their quick response to the need of their neighbours.

Combined relief program matrix

COMBO Response Matrix

2014

S	ACTIVITIES	SUB-ACTIVITIES	T-UK	T-UK	CBM	GQ
1	Initial Assessments	Visiting affected villages to assess immediate needs	8	400	10	28
2	Ready to Eat DFP in villages	Immediate response with Ready to Eat Dry food packets	8			8
3	Rapid Needs Assessments	Identify Emerging need for Response				10
4	Identification villages	@Village	5	10	10	25
5	Procurements	Dry Food Ration (DFR)	500		500	1000
6		Jerrycans	500			500
7		Water purifying tablets	10000			10000
8		Blankets	1500		1500	3000
9		Tarpaulin	500		500	1000
10		Nutritional supplements		1250		1250
11		Infant kit		250		250
12		Hygiene kit		400		400
13		Mosquito nets		1000		1000
14		Bleaching powder			500	500
15	Health	Disease surveillance				
16		General Health camps	250		1000	1250
17		Antenatal clinics		1200		1200
18		Health, Hygiene & FA promotion campaign		1200	1200	2400
19		De-worming campaign			1000	1000

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Pictures of Relief Activities in Utraula, Balrampur, UP

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DEVASTATING FLOODS IN JAMMU & KASHMIR



The Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir is battling one of the worst floods in 60 years with rivers in the region in spate due to week-long torrential rains. days of incessant rain. Nearly 200 people have died and thousands are stranded across the state, including Srinagar.

Evacuation by Armed Forces: Armed Forces are carrying out flood relief and rescue operations in the entire State in heavy rains and extremely bad weather conditions. 130 Army columns have been deployed rescuing more than 14800 people so far. 50 Army Medical Teams have also been deployed in alongwith these columns to provide immediate medical assistance to the injured and sick people. Air Force has deployed 16 Medium Lift Helicopters, 9 Light Helicopters and 7 Transport Aircraft for the rescue and flood relief operations.

Communication linkages disrupted: Due to landslides, the 300-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and all other major roads in the state remained closed. Power failed with telephone towers damaged and the swirling waters have damaged buildings and snapped all communication links. The mobile phone and internet connectivity was also affected in Kashmir on Sunday afternoon, completely cutting off the Valley from rest of the country.

Promising all help, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told people not to panic. "This is an unprecedented situation and we are doing the best we can under the circumstances. Please do not panic, we will reach you, I promise," he said.

Prime Minister of India appealing NGOs to mobilize resources: The flood situation in Jammu and Kashmir was declared a "national-level disaster" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday even as the Army alone evacuated 15,000 people from inundated areas across the State.

As more personnel of the National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), Air Force and Army were pressed into action, the Prime Minister asked other States to also pitch in. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh made a separate appeal to NGOs to mobilise their resources to help deal with the situation.

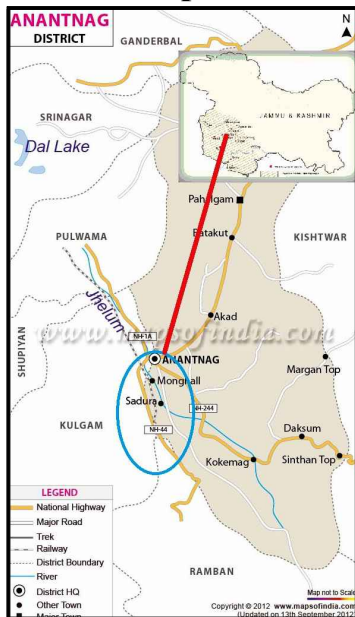
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Before leaving for J&K the PM announced Rs. 1,000-crore assistance in addition to Rs. 1,100 crore already made available to the State government through the State Disaster Relief Fund.

The Centre also announced Rs. 2 lakh ex-gratia to the next of kin of those who died in the floods. Also, Rs. 50,000 would be given from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) to those grievously injured. Though official figure of the deaths is not available, by all accounts at least 160 people have lost their lives so far.

EHA's Response in Balrampur District:



EHA's focus for emergency response has always been areas highly affected with least attended and accessible areas. Vast areas of the southern district of Anantnag has been marooned since 4th September for 5- 10 days including the main town heavily affected communication, transport, markets and other essential services including health. However, EHA would look at a different strategy in Srinagar based on the Rapid Spot Assessment and based on the gap.

Available **Situation reports** published by Sphere India early last week mentioned 2 main hospitals in Srinagar and 100s of villages are inundated by landslides and caused massive damages to water supply, crops & orchards.

EHA's Rapid Spot Health Needs Assessment (RSHNA) and Medical Camps in partnership with JBM Hospital, Anantnag:

With the first day opening the road from Srinagar to Anantnag, EHA's 3-member RSHNA team consisting of a Public Health specialist visited Laktipura, Arwani, Semthan, Hassanpura, Kharpura/Noupura villages and met health officials in Sub-Hospital, Bijbiara. However, there is no early signs of epidemic yet.

In the meanwhile the Medical Camps started on 17th September 2014 and as of 19th September 2014, **821** patients were seen and Rs.25000 worth free medicines were provided in 3 villages namely, Jablipura (416), Subhapura (117) and Loktipura (288). Food packets consisting of Rice 10kgs, Channa dal 1kg, Moil 1 ltr, Salt 1 kg and 1 bathing soap. **205** food packets were already distributed in Kanderpura, Jablipura and Lokipura villages.

The needs assessment team found that most of the health services including PHCs are not functioning while many of them are damaged and would take months to restore fully. The District hospital was also under water. There is lack of safe drinking water. Flood water accumulation with no possibility of draining out is an emerging health concern. 100% houses were marooned under water with variations of levels between 5-20 ft with floors, kitchens and toilets clogged with muds, handpumps and water bodies under flood water for 5-10 days. Many un-finished village roads are damaged while damaged bandhs around river Biswa as well as Jhelum are a major worry of the localites. So far no Medical team (Govt or NGO) with doctors and trained nurses reached the villages covered so far.

The JBM Hospital team deserves appreciation for very quickly reaching the needy in most affected

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areas of Anantnag with food packets and medicines.

Immediate Health Response Plan

Since overall district administration is affected and the existing health infrastructure badly struck by this flood that might take atleast a month to fully restore its services, it is imperative that EHA along with JBM as its local partner continue health camps for a month with main 2 purposes-

- meeting common health needs of the population and
- epidemic surveillance.

The RSHNA team is moving toward Srinagar to explore and ascertain the visible gaps to respond to core needs working along with the local health departments.

A detailed Action Plan would be chalked out with the needs assessment report shortly.

Pictures of J&K floods below.

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EHA's response to Jammu & Kashmir Floods 2014

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