

Oxfam Situation Report

Number: 3

Date: 24 Jun 2013

Prepared by: National Humanitarian Hub, Kolkata

Summary information

COMMON NAME OF EMERGENCY (e.g., frequently used name)	Floods in North India – Uttarakhand
DATE (external/internal break-out)	15 June (heavy rainfall since 14 June); Cloudbursts on 16 June morning and night
DURATION	6 th day
COUNTRY	India
CATEGORY (1, 2, 3 – for more information see the section 3.2)	CAT 3
MAIN CLASSIFICATION (Natural Disaster, Conflict, Health/Medical, Incident, Other)	Natural Disaster – Landslide, cloudbursts and floods. 4 districts of Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Tehri and Chamoli are worst affected. Parts of Himachal Pradesh and UP.
FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CLASSIFICATION (if any)	The recent floods have been triggered mostly due to incessant rainfall in the upper region of the state since 15 June.
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED	The official death toll has crossed 1000. Till 24 th June, 20,000 people were still stranded. Rescue operations are stopped now due to rain.
HUMANITARIAN LEAD	Oxfam
IMPLEMENTING OXFAMs PART OF THE CLT	Oxfam India
CONTRIBUTING OXFAMs (FUNDING AFFILIATES)	- Oxfam Australia
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BUDGET (USD)	NA
PARTNERS	-
DURATION OF RESPONSE	- NA
COMMENTS	Oxfam India has issued an appeal and is responding to the crisis. Oxfam India is the managing affiliate in India and leads on small scale; medium scale responses. Currently Oxfam India is coordinating with the IAG, local agencies. Uttarakhand flood response is a category 3 response.

1. Key Issues

Important events that have occurred – both internal and external to Oxfam - since the last situation report. This summary could also include unresolved and outstanding issues from the last situation report. Some people will read only this section, so all the most important headlines should be included.

Please include the impact of the emergency on the livelihoods of the people affected with an indication of the long term problems. Please include gender disaggregated information/data.

While access obstacles are constraining delivery of relief in many locations, there is an urgent need for scaling-up of humanitarian assistance in the immediate term. Additional funding is now urgently required to allow for an expansion of activities and beyond to address the totality of emerging needs and avoid the incidence of gaps.

Oxfam is currently providing food rations to flood-affected families in Rudrapryag district. Amid ongoing access constraints and the sheer scale of the disaster, priority locations have been targeted for immediate intervention. A planned scale-up of Oxfam's response in July aims to meet the needs of up to 3000 households (16200 people). As of 25th June 1300 beneficiaries have been provided with more drinking water and food assistance.

Number of dead is over 1000 people. The death toll is expected to rise further.

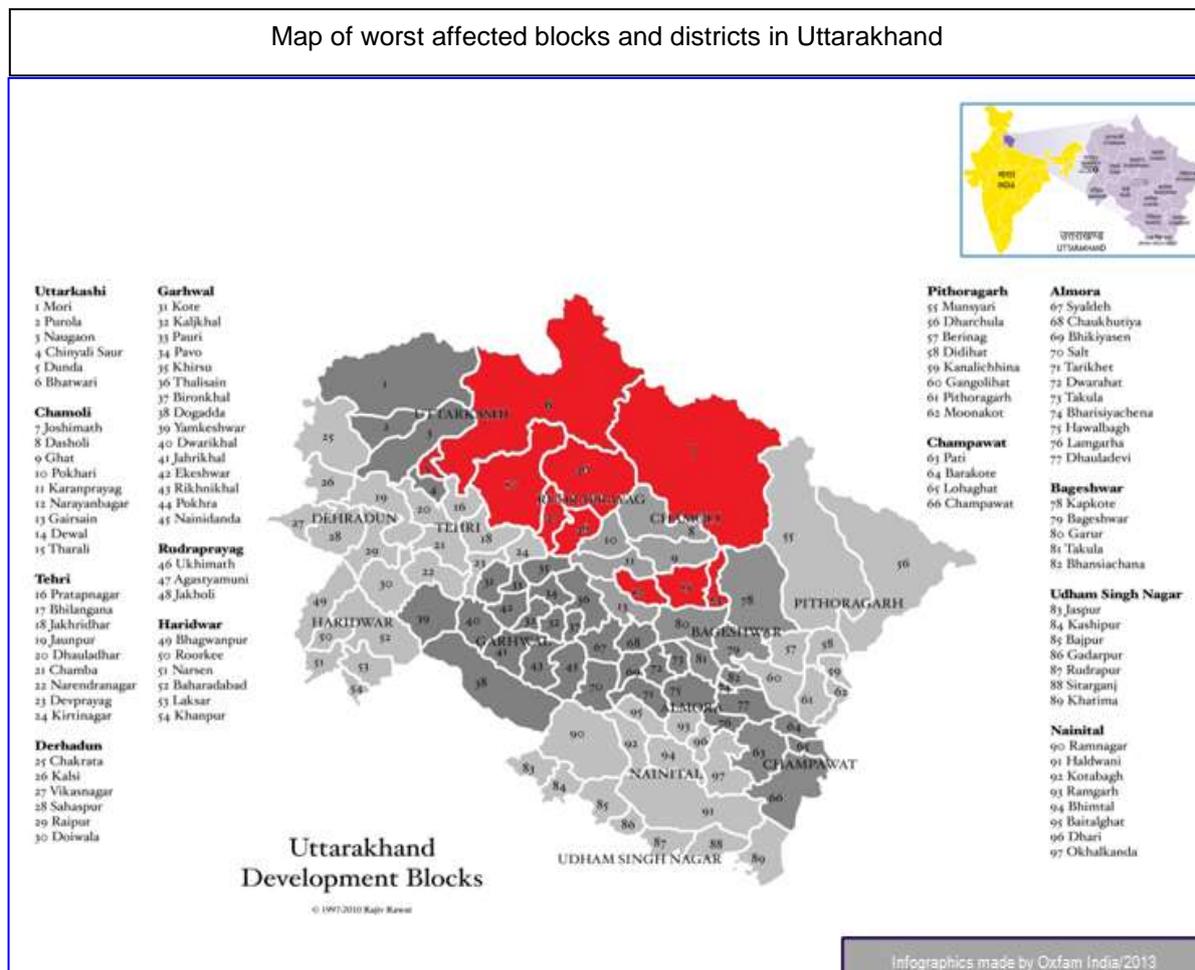
Existing camps and spontaneous settlements in Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and other areas lack basic facilities. There are serious concerns about hygiene and sanitation conditions in particular. There is no information as to how many camps have been established by local authorities and army in the affected area. And also no indication of how many people is in these camps. More concrete information on the number and location of camps and camp-like settlements in affected areas is needed, in addition to scaled up provision of basic services.

Oxfam has positioned its humanitarian staff in the affected state to coordinate the relief operations and are moving in relief materials including Tarpaulins, blankets - epi foam sheets, hygiene kits, solar lamps and additional food aid for 2000 households. Oxfam is also conducting a rapid assessment of the floods, to ascertain needs in the coming weeks and months.

Government search and rescue operations have been suspended because of bad weather. Reports from the affected area states that there are over 15000 people still stranded and are waiting to be rescued. Priority for the defence team is to rescue elderly women, men and children. There is a shortage of vehicles in flood affected areas. This may hamper transportation to the affected region.

- Some of the worst affected blocks in Uttarkashi are Naugaon, Dunda and Bhatowari.
- In Rudraprayag, blocks such as Ukhimath and Augustmuni are badly affected.
- Joshimath, Dewal, Tharali, Karanprayag and Narayanbagar blocks in Chamoli district are severely hit.
- Over 300 villages across Uttarakhand have been severely affected by the floods. These villages are now totally inaccessible. There is very little that is known as to where the villagers may have moved to.
- Power, water and food supplies are severely disrupted. People have been living without power since the last 6 days.
- Most of these affected communities are staying in community schools and colleges. Food assistance, emergency shelter and NFI and hygiene materials are the most critical needs for affected people now.
- The armed forces have evacuated 75,000 people (till 23rd June). Some 20,000 people are still stranded across Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag and Chamoli region in Uttarakhand.
- Road infrastructure to Chamoli region remains disrupted.
- Several local markets in the affected region have been washed away. However, markets in urban towns such as Srinagar, Rishikesh and Dehradun are functional.

Map of worst affected blocks and districts in Uttarakhand



2. Security

Update on general security situation since the last situation report. Rather than simply report security incidents here, include analysis¹ where possible.

Any security incidents relating to Oxfams, any changes in security level, and any changes/updates to the security guidelines/evacuation plans should be noted here.

There are reported incidents of looting in some areas. Valuables from temples have been looted by miscreants and anti-social elements. There are also some reports of valuables being taken away from dead bodies and pilgrims being asked to part with their valuables.

Oxfam staff are reviewing the security situation in the area, because there are reports of tension between the local communities and pilgrims in certain areas because if the way relief has been provided.

3. General Humanitarian Situation

- *Humanitarian situation in the country and in the program area*
 - *Analysis of the situation (see footnote 1)*
 - *How might this affect the implementation of the program (the need for further scale-up, for example)?*
 - *Gaps in the program response*
 - *Indicate the key decisions made at the lead affiliate level or at the Oxfam International level for response regarding program activities*
-
- At least 400-500 people are stuck in temporary relief camps in Uttarkashi region. Cooked food ration is being provided to these affected people by ITBP, Army and local administration.
 - Host communities in worst affected Rudraprayag and Chamoli region have not received any food or shelter relief assistance. However, Uttarakhand state government has announced a cash compensation of Rs. 2700 per family.
 - Affected people are struggling to recover assets from their damaged houses. The villages have been filled with six to eight feet of slush and mud; and removing this is posing a big challenge for local people. Removal of debris is a major problem in the affected areas.
 - Food (dry ration such as rice, dal, edible oil, tea, dry milk) is an urgent need. Host communities' dry ration may last for another three-four days. Dry ration is available in the district headquarters. Market in Dehradun is functional.
 - Another critical need is emergency shelter (tarpaulins and plastic sheets and mats). There is also a demand for solar lanterns and torch. Tarpaulins and plastic sheets could be available in Dehradun, but not in the district headquarters.
 - Hygiene condition in the affected area is very poor and there is a need for support towards non-food hygiene material is another emerging need. These materials are soap, towels, brush, toothpaste; and sanitary napkins for women and girls.
 - Currently, we cannot access (Joshimath, Dewal, Tharali, Karanprayag and Narayanbagar) of Chamoli district. Power and telecom services are totally damaged and disrupted.

¹ Always indicate when a fact is stated or when it is analysis or interpretation of events- Indicate the source of information

- Stranded people and affected villagers are able to access the Military Hospital of Joshimath block in Chamoli district. People caught in Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag districts are not able to go to any district or government hospitals since they are cut off.
- Temperature in the hilly terrain falls down to at least 15 to 20 degree celcius in the night. Under these circumstances, children, women and elderly people are facing extreme hardships.

Government rescue operations:

Government of Uttarakhand has announced a cash compensation of 2700 INR per family for affected local communities. But affected villagers have not received it till now.

Search and rescue operations continue to be the top priority for India Army, ITBP, NDRF and paramilitary forces.

Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has announced Rs. 1000 crores (170 million USD) relief fund to Uttarkahand. Government of India has appealed to entire nation to support and donate to the PM's Relief Fund. Government of India has announced that ex-gratia assistance of 200,000 INR each to the families of those who have lost their lives and 50,000 INR each to those who have been injured will be provided from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). Central government has already released 145 crores INR to Uttarakhand for immediate assistance.

Relief for shelter:

In addition, the central government will also provide from the PMNRF ex-gratia assistance of 100,000 INR each to those whose houses have been completely destroyed and 50,000 INR each to those whose houses have been damaged.

4. General Political Relations/Context

(Please be concise and precise)

- *What is the general political context in the country? (Include external and internal actors.)*
- *How are relations with the government, and what is the government response*
- *Analysis of the situation (see footnote 1)*

Oxfam maintains a good working relation with government authorities during emergency response. Oxfam staff is now based in Dehradun and in the affected districts to support coordinate the emergency response programme in the two districts of Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag. The operational base for Oxfam in the field is Guptkashi from where relief materials can reach. However, one has to note that travelling to the location is extremely difficult and hazardous. Partner staff who travelled to that location with relief on the 23rd could not return back to Dehradun and are now stranded there because of rains and landslides.

5. General Context

- *The work of the UN and bilateral and multilateral organizations, and Oxfam's relationship with them.*

- *The work of other INGOs and local NGOs, and Oxfam's relationship with them*
- *Analysis of the situation (see footnote 1)*

USAID has announced to provide relief of 9 million INR (150,000 USD) for Uttarakhand. Meanwhile, various corporate sector companies such as Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, Bharti Airtel, HCC have pledged financial support for flood affected people.

As reported earlier, Plan India, a humanitarian agency has its state office in Uttarakhand and is reported to be doing an assessment in Uttarkahashi with its local partner SBMA. It is learnt from IAG that Plan has allocated funds for providing aid to people staying in the camps. According to information received from IAG, humanitarian agencies MSF and ADRA are planning their assessments. A team from Save the Children has arrived in Uttarakhand, it was earlier learnt from IAG Uttarakhand.

6. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (if relevant)

- *Incidents of sexual exploitation within humanitarian operations*
- *Measures taken to prevent/address those incidents*

There have been no reported cases of sexual abuse at the moment.

7. Program Activities - Progress against Objectives

- a. Program with partners:**
- b. Program directly implemented by Oxfam affiliates:**

Oxfam India staff are based out of Dehradun and are working closely with two of our partners JVS and HPSS. Oxfam India and partner (JVS and HPSS) in Uttarakhand assessing the situation.

Water and dry rations are being distributed in some of the affected locations by Oxfam. So far 1300 people have been provided with drinking water and food. However, they have not been able to access the affected areas of the neighbouring districts.

Initial Plans

On 19th June Oxfam India received a call from the NDMA asking about our pre positioned relief materials as well as Oxfam list of supplies during the first phase of a response. At 2 pm on the same day they called for a meeting of some selected NGOs. They invited, Oxfam, UNICEF, WHO and Sphere for a meeting at their HO in Delhi.

In this meeting they made a request for provisioning of tents, dry fruits and warm clothes for the affected population. However, this request would later be confirmed formally through mail once they receive the request from the Govt of Uttarakhand.

On the 20th the humanitarian programme manager briefed the SLT on the current situation and scenario. SLT, humanitarian manager and regional manager North India were the attendees.

Oxfam India decision to respond.

- The initial response plan was to support and assist the National Disaster Management Authority with provisions for the people stranded in Uttarakhand and who need emergency assistance.
- As of writing this report (25 June), the request (fax that NDMA is expecting from Govt. Of Uttarakhand) is still awaited. *Since we have not received any response from the NDMA, we are now working with our partners in the affected area. Our response approach is semi operational (Oxfam staff on the ground along with partners) would implement the humanitarian assistance programme.*
- However, given the delays in making requests by the NDMA, Oxfam decided to coordinate with its local partners and directly place its staff in Uttarakhand and implement the emergency response programme directly.
- Oxfam plans to provide Non Food Items such, Tarpaulins, fleece blankets, solar lamps as well as provide dry food rations to approx 2000 households. However, we need to note that the situation is fluid and changing rapidly, with new needs.
- Oxfam is also coordinating with other humanitarian agencies with which Oxfam was a consortia partner during the Assam flood response (Action Aid and Christian Aid). A 3 member team is based in Dehradun and are assessing the situation in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi. This same team is also coordinating and supporting the partners in providing relief in some isolated pockets.
- Oxfam is transporting relief materials: Shelter NFI and water and sanitation related hardware to Dehradun. Oxfam pre positioned shelter and WASH kits in UP are being moved to Uttarakhand. From the base in Dehradun, materials would be shipped to key locations once road connectivity is restored.

8. Advocacy and Lobbying

- What in-country, regional, or HQ-based advocating, campaigning, or policy work is underway or planned?*
- What needs to take place in advocating, campaigning, or policy work that is not yet occurring?*
- What are the actions for advocacy at the UN level?*
- What proactive work is planned?*
- What are the talking points for advocacy?*
- What joint activities with partners regarding lobby and advocacy are planned/taking place.*

9. Beneficiary numbers

Approximately 2000 households in the current stage. The programme would be scaled up if 3000 households condition to funding available from donors.

10. New Interventions Planned/Assessment

- New interventions or assessments (program with partners and program directly implemented by Oxfam) planned in the coming reporting period*
- Recommendations for assessments over the reporting period*
- Status of planned proposals or donor submissions*
- Status of assessment reports and when they will be submitted*

NA

11. Logistics

a. Program with partners:

- *Logistics issues/problems faced by partners*

There is heavy rainfall in the area at the moment. Met dept predicts more rain over the next 48 hours. This has hampered relief operations.

People and villages affected by the flood and landslide are located across scattered places. Their access to essential services and relief are blocked since most of the inner roads and highways are cut off. It is a challenge for government agencies who are currently engaged in providing evacuation to the affected people. Relief materials can only be provided through air. There is massive logistics challenge that needs to be considered by humanitarian agencies.

The road and rail connectivity to the districts of Rudraprayag and Chamoli from Dehradun is disrupted. However, Dehradun can be reached from major towns and cities of the country.

b. Program directly implemented by Oxfam:

- *Status of procurements and any expected delays*
- *Issues with vehicles, contracts, tenders, staff, communication, and security*
- *Logistics issues or need for support from HQ*
- *Provide any cost associated to operations if possible*

Oxfam humanitarian hub has pre-positioned contingency stocks with its partner GDS in Uttar Pradesh. The hub is coordinating with Lucknow office to shift relief materials from GDS to Uttarakhand.

12. Communications

- *What internal and external communication work is being done?*
- *Media messaging*
- *Outstanding issues, gaps which need addressing, etc*
- *Include highlights from local media*

Oxfam has issued press release related to Uttarakhand flood crisis. The press release has been widely covered in the national (Economic Times, Business Standard, Outlook, Zee News among others) and international press and media. Oxfam India website has also been updated with the latest press release and emergency appeal. The appeal has been provided with a 'Donate to Oxfam India' link. Information related to Uttarakhand crisis is being updated on Oxfam India's social media profiles (mainly facebook and twitter).

The media messaging has been primarily related to Oxfam's decision to provide humanitarian assistance in Uttarakhand. Oxfam India CEO, Nisha Agrawal's interviews have been broadcasted on BBC Radio Asia, BBC Radio 5 Live, Real Radio North East in the UK.

Oxfam India was live on Al Jazeera English TV on 23rd June.

Even after one week of the flood, Uttarakhand crisis continues to get headline coverage in the national, international and regional media.

13. Fundraising

- Institutional donors – status of proposals being submitted, any problems, etc.*
- Donor reporting issues*
- Status of Oxfam Funding Grid*

NA

14. Human Resources

- Arrivals and departures of staff*
- Staff shortfalls or needs (recruitment strategy)*
- Training/induction requirements*

<i>Oxfam humanitarian staff engaged in the response –</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Oxfam staff deployed to Uttarakhand</i>	<i>03</i>
<i>Partner staff</i>	<i>12</i>

15. Finance and Administration (when appropriate and relevant to Oxfam International)

- Status of budget monitoring, spend updates, etc.*
- Registration, contract, cash transfers, banking issues, funding, and donor issues*
- Accounting issues or need for support from regions or HQ*

NA

16. Oxfam Coordination

- Any specific issue related to Oxfam coordination in the response that needs to be addressed (e.g. Country Leadership Team meetings, Oxfam Joint Strategy updates)*

Humanitarian Hub is coordinating internally within Oxfam India the larger Oxfam International Federation for decisions and information flow; and funding purpose.

17. Sitrep Annexes

Map of Uttarakhand is attached in the Sitrep.

End of document