

UNICEF SITUATION REPORT INDIA FLOODS - EXTERNAL 15 September, 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government estimates that as of 13 September the floods in India have affected some 48 million people. As many as 40,841 villages have been flooded and 575,132 houses fully damaged. The number of human lives lost to floods has reached 2,614 in total this year.
- The overall flood situation in the worst affected state, Bihar, continues to be grim with areas in five districts flooded again. In Assam, during the third wave (beginning on 28 August), 12 districts in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys have been the worst affected, covering an estimated 2,587 villages with 2.9 million population.
- The outbreak of cholera in Assam and Orissa is under control. In both states, the Government has reacted proactively in containing the spread of the disease.
- UNICEF continues its intensive emergency response – the current focus of interventions is in Bihar and Orissa, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Assam.
- UNICEF continues to take a leading role in inter-agency meetings which take place in the affected states and supports the Unified Response Strategy (URS) in the proactive and coordinated response in Bihar, Assam and Orissa.

BIHAR Situation

- The flood situation continues to remain grim with catchment areas of major rivers receiving heavy rainfall in the last two days.
- There was no let-up in the flood situation in Bihar as the swollen Bagmati, Kosi and Gandak rivers inundated fresh areas in five districts, namely West Champaran, Saharsa, Supaul, Sitamarhi and Sheohar. The death toll rose to 668.
- Begusarai and Bhagalpur districts, which are not normally affected by floods, have been affected severely this time.

UNICEF Response

- **Coordination:** UNICEF is taking a lead role in coordinating the NGOs, INGOs and Government response during floods and in post-flood rehabilitation through weekly interagency group meetings. UNICEF has led the sectoral interventions in water and sanitation, health, nutrition, child protection through special thematic meetings at state and district level.
- **Health:** Over 476,107 people have been treated by the mobile medical teams and fixed-site teams mobilised jointly by the Government of Bihar and UNICEF. Of these, there have been 60,449 cases of fever, 754 cases of fever with rash, 139 cases of jaundice, 30,815 cases of ARI (cough) and 31,625 cases of diarrhoea. More than 134,000 children have been immunised against measles and 93,587 children were given Vitamin A supplementation.
- A comprehensive disease surveillance and containment plan is in place for early detection and prevention of outbreaks of gastroenteritis, malaria, measles, Leptospirosis.
- **Nutrition:** UNICEF has started Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) in two districts, Muzaffarpur and East Champaran. A total to 42



severe acute malnourished children are at present in NRCs and are being provided all services specific to each child in their rehabilitation period.

- **Water and Sanitation:** UNICEF has conducted the following interventions through NGO partners in the eight districts: educated 33,848 families on hygiene promotion through NGO partners; 10,624 hand pumps disinfected; 564 hand pumps installed. Additionally in the camps more than 10,000 families have been educated on hygiene promotion and 13,397 families have been provided temporary shelters. The government, with UNICEF's support, has reconstructed 1,834 hand pumps with raised platform. 938 temporary hand pumps have been installed in relief camps and 86 new hand pumps with raised platforms have been installed in the affected villages. 338 toilets have been set up in relief camps.
- **Communication and Social Mobilization:** A strategy has been implemented to communicate key messages related to hygiene, sanitation, health, nutrition and child protection to families and communities affected by the floods, so that they can practice key child survival behaviours. It is implemented through partner NGOs, Women Development Corporation, government workers at the village level and mass media campaign.
- **Education:** A thematic meeting to coordinate the education response in the flood affected districts was conducted on 11 September, 2007 with a large number of NGOs in the State. The partnership in education response was widened with the involvement of Bihar Mahila Samakhya Society and other leading NGOs.
- In all 265 Alternative Learning Spaces (ALS) have been set up covering about 60,000 students. Most of the ALSs are in camps, embankments, inundated/damaged schools and on roadsides and sites where displaced people live. ALSs provide an opportunity to increase the enrollment of out-of-school children and to mainstream them in regular Government schools.



Children inside an ALS set up by UNICEF

UTTAR PRADESH (U.P.) Situation

- There was an increase in water levels early this week in Rapti and Ghaghara rivers on account of rainfall in upper reaches. There has also been release of water from check dams located in Nepal. At present, 664 villages are partly affected, and 303 are still fully affected. Barabanki, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh and Bahraich are the most affected districts in terms of the displaced population.

UNICEF response

- **Health:** 101 Mobile teams, which have treated over 128,000 patients, including 46,000 children, are now gradually phased out. A total of 21,000 children have been vaccinated. 10,000 Impregnated bed nets for malaria prevention have been sent to districts and are being distributed.
- **Water and Sanitation:** 250,000 people have been provided with the halozone tablets for safe water. 11,000 families in nine districts have got safe drinking water storage from UNICEF. These are in addition to 2,500 families supported by other partners. Water sources have been disinfected in over 1,000 villages. Priority has been given to the villages which have been fully submerged during floods. Installation of 15 Ecosan toilet completed in Barabanki and Bahraich. The residual solid wastes are being safely disposed in 150 villages.

- Education: 1,100 schools in flood affected blocks of nine districts have been identified for receiving support in terms of materials for teaching-learning recreation.

ASSAM Situation

- 12 persons have died and one is missing on account of a third wave of floods. Connectivity along the National Highways continues to remain a problem, with many sectors submerged under the flood waters.
- The army has been pressed into relief operations and to rescue marooned people, especially in Cachar, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur districts. The Brahmaputra and the Barak rivers, and their tributaries, are flowing above the danger mark in 21 places and many embankments have been breached.

UNICEF Response

- UNICEF is in regular touch with the Relief Commissioner's office. No new requests for assistance have been received so far.
- Co-ordination: UNICEF is attending co-ordination meetings organised by the SPHERE and working with partner NGOs to respond collectively in different geographical areas. UNICEF is also co-ordinating with the Office of the Relief Commissioner (involved in relief operations) and the UNDP supported Disaster Risk Management Cell (involved in preparedness activities).
- Social Mobilisation: A total of 300 trained NGO volunteers have so far been able to reach around 20,000 households in 209 villages in the six worst-affected districts. They have been carrying out messages to mobilize communities around key behaviours relating to health, IYCF, and sanitation/hygiene.

ORISSA Situation

- Cholera in South Orissa is now showing a declining trend. The spread appears to be contained in Rayagada and Koraput district. No deaths have been reported since 11th September. Reports of sporadic outbreak continue to come from other Blocks of these districts as well as new adjoining districts. The Govt. is prompt in responding to these outbreaks.
- A standard treatment protocol is being used at all treatment centers established by the government in the affected districts. Segregation of severely affected patients is being practiced. Personal protection materials supplied by UNICEF are being used by medical attendants in the treatment Centers. Adequate supply of drugs and water are available at the treatment centers, patients have been using latrines and efforts are seen for safe disposal of excreta.
- UNICEF has supported the state government in developing a communication strategy to cover the affected areas in the four districts. Social Mobilisation on safe water, sanitation and hygiene, use of halogen tablets, water purification/disinfectant (PUR) and oral rehydration salts (ORS) is continuing in all affected villages with support from UNICEF.