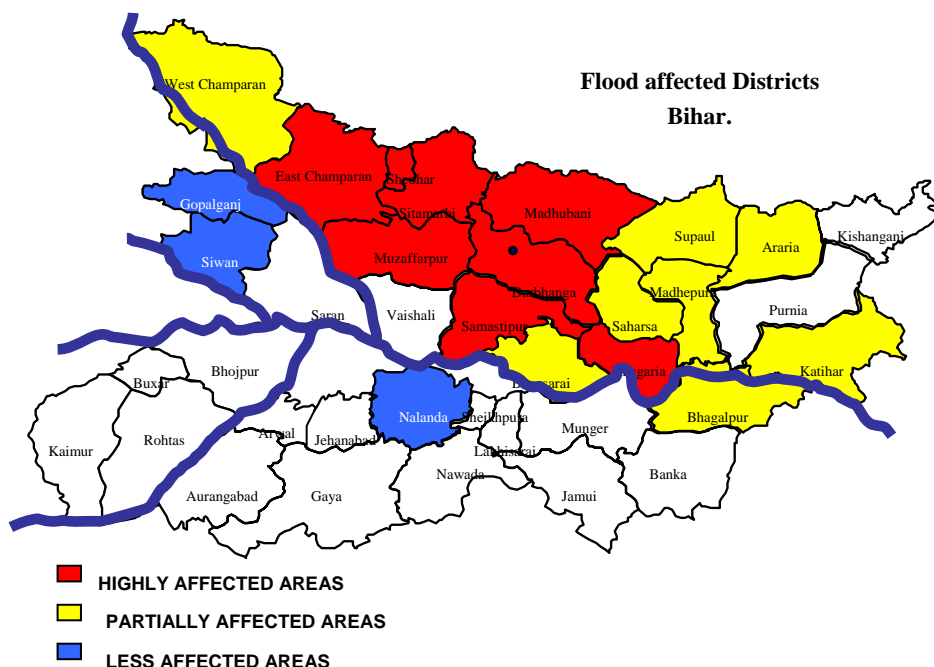


## UNICEF SITUATION REPORT INDIA FLOODS - EXTERNAL 17 AUGUST 2007

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As per Government estimates, floods in India have affected 38.07 million people as on 15 August. As many as 31,514 villages have been affected and 343,614 houses have been fully damaged. Another 941,399 houses have suffered partial destruction..
- According to official figures, the number of human lives lost to floods in India this year has reached 1.835 in total.
- The focus of UNICEF’s multi-sectoral interventions, as well as of major international NGOs, is in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, followed by Assam and Orissa.
- The flood situation continues to be grim in the northern state of **Bihar**. It became somewhat alarming after new and heavy rains poured over much of the earlier affected areas. The situation may worsen with major rivers rising due to rain in the upper reaches of Nepal and catchments areas. The official death toll in the state is over 160 and likely to rise as the information is collected. There is no evidence of serious deterioration of the humanitarian situation as of yet, however, the threat of a health epidemic remains very acute. UNICEF upgraded its multi-sectoral Action Plan and its interventions are at full force.
- The last few days have again brought heavy rain in parts of northern **Uttar Pradesh**, as well as in neighbouring Uttaranchal. The water levels of two major rivers, Sharada and Ghaghara, are reported to be continuously rising. This caused a second wave of displacement for some families in the districts of Barabanki, Bahraich, Shravasti, Gorakhpur and Balrampur, some for the second time. The death toll as per official figures rose to 195.
- Today, the flood situation in **Orissa** and **Assam** are largely under control, although various humanitarian needs persist and the relief action is ongoing.
- The Inter Agency meetings are taking place in the affected states on a regular basis. UNICEF is playing a lead role in coordination with NGOs, INGOs and government agencies. The Unified Response Strategy (URS) continues its efforts to contribute to the coordinated response in Bihar, Assam and Orissa.



## BIHAR

### Situation

- Nearly 15 million people of 19 districts in North Bihar (including 1.5 million children below 5 years) are now believed to have been affected by flooding. The worst affected 8 districts are Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Sheohar, and Khagaria (see the map above).
- The Ganga river is flowing 24 cm, 54 cm and 10 cm above the danger mark at Kahelgaon, Sahebganj and Darauli respectively. The Budhigandak river, though receding, is still flowing above the danger level at Sikandapur (49 cm), Samastipur (115 cm), Rosera (111 cm) and Khagaria (15 cm). The Baghmata river was flowing 58 cm, 104 cm, 116 cm above the danger mark at Benipad, Hayaghat, kamtaul and Ekmighat respectively, while Kosi river is flowing 126 cm and 26 cm above the red mark at Baltara and Kursela respectively.
- Due to inclement weather, the government temporarily, over two days, suspended the air-drop relief in North Bihar districts.

### UNICEF Response



Doctors examining the patients in medical relief camps in East Champaran district

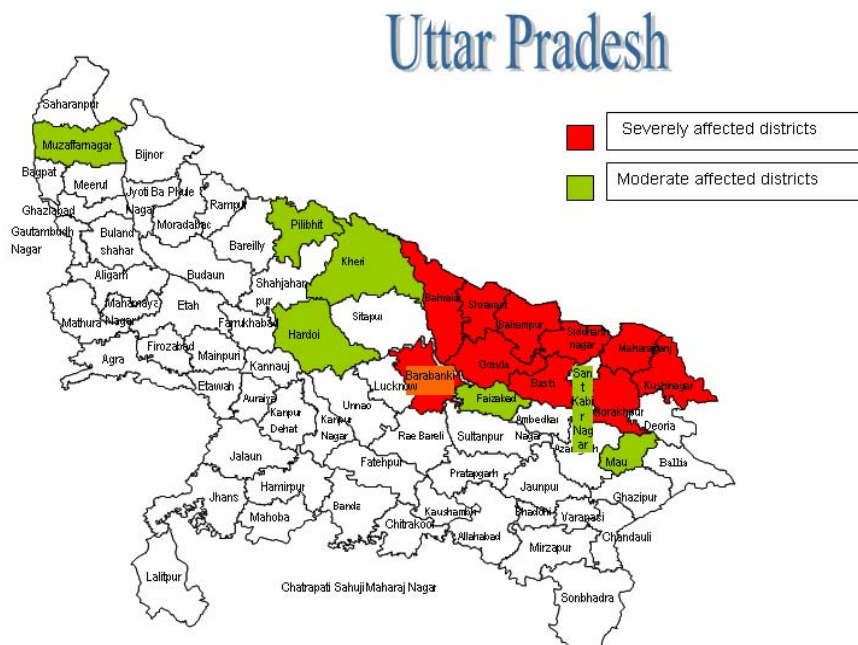


Children in temporary shelter along embankment

- UNICEF has developed a comprehensive medium-term Action Plan in the different sectors with special focus on 8 worst affected districts: Darbhanga, Madhubani, East Champaran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Khagaria. Led by the state government, relief efforts will be supported by UNICEF and NGOs.
- UNICEF supported the Health Department in setting up monitoring and surveillance system for early detection and management of diseases and epidemics. Medical focal persons were put in place in 11 districts (a total of 20 doctors) to provide technical support to the District Administration in health and nutrition.
- About 90 mobile medical teams and about 200 medical relief sites have been set up in the flood-affected districts. These teams and sites examine about 25,000 patients every day and this far, a total of over 120,000 patients have been examined.

- Further, UNICEF assisted the Health Department in vaccinating 15,000 children against measles and provided Vitamin A and provided 250,000 IFA tablets to 15,000 pregnant women and adolescent girls in the 8 worst affected districts.
- UNICEF has sent 10 trucks of relief materials to District Magistrates (DMs)/ Special DMs, 8 trucks to Civil Surgeons (Chief Medical Officers in Districts) and 13 trucks to UNICEF-supported NGOs in 13 flood affected districts. The relief materials included – 500,000 halogen tablets for purifying water, 1 million IFA tablet, 200,000 ORS sachets, 9,000 tarpaulin sheets, 40,000 PUR for purifying water, 25,000 kg bleaching powder, large quantities of candles, jerry cans, plastic mats etc.
- 8,000 Life Straws were air dropped/sent to districts. These can purify 700 litres of water per straw.
- A total of around 200 metric tones of nutritional supplements are being provided by Catholic Relief Service (CRS) with assistance of UNICEF through BIPARD to 87,500 families in the 8 worst flood affected districts in a phased manner in a week.
- Along with the Centre for Disaster Management and Sphere India's Unified Response Strategy (URS), UNICEF took a coordinating role in relief operation with a number of international NGOs, such as Oxfam, Action Aid, CRS, Médecins Sans Frontières MSF, World Vision, Concern, CASA and Save the Children. These international NGOs have planned to provide various food and non-food item assistance to about 700,000 people (130,000 families). The items to be provided include dry ration, water purifying tablets, medicines and clothes.

## UTTAR PRADESH (U.P.)



### Situation

- The number of villages fully submerged has come down to 308 and partially affected are 1,116.
- As per the latest Government report 1.16 million population is still affected by floods out of whom 68,000 are displaced and still living in shelter camps.
- New heavy rainfall has been reported in some parts of Uttar Pradesh provoking further displacement and raised concerns over the humanitarian situation.

### UNICEF response

- UNICEF has scaled-up its interventions in Uttar Pradesh.
- Three NGO partners have been identified to help carry out a post flood Water and Sanitation plan in the 4 worst affected districts - Balrampur, Bahraich, Sravasti and Barabanki. The priority tasks are to: a) mobilise the community and help them with effective solid liquid waste disposal; b) promote key hygiene behaviours amongst the affected communities; c) distribute relief materials (tarpaulins, bleaching powder, Halogen tablets, jerrycans, ORS etc) in close coordination with the District Administration; d) support disinfection of all drinking water sources in the affected villages; e) in consultation with the community / PRIs / Pradhan, identify the right place for the construction of Ecosan toilets and new IM-II hand pumps; f) work closely with health workers to ensure a clean environment in the affected villages to prevent outbreak of water borne diseases; f) sensitize the community to future community based flood preparedness planning.
- UNICEF continues disease surveillance and prevention, which includes district-wise reports on morbidity; orientation for health workers, ASHAs and NGO workers regarding correct methods for chlorination, diarrhea management and disease prevention. 105 mobile clinics facilitated by UNICEF



will reach out to severely affected and inaccessible villages to provide essential health services, immunisation, treatment of general ailments, drugs, ORS and chlorine to the displaced population.

## ASSAM

### Situation

- The situation has been constantly improving in spite of heavy to moderate rainfall reported in different parts of the state. The affected population is returning to their villages, however, under severely degraded environmental conditions.
- UNICEF advocacy with the Government of Assam has resulted in a decision to vaccinate all children (six months to 14 years) for measles; the Government of India approved the proposal of Government of Assam.
- As per official data, the population affected by 2007 floods in Assam stands at 6.7 million. 37 casualties have been reported.

### UNICEF Response

- Achieved co-ordination with State Disaster Management Unit/Relief Commissioner's Office, Health & PHED departments, district administrations and partner NGOs on rapid response. All pre-positioned items were used immediately.
- Advocacy with the Health Department on measles immunization for all children (9 months to 14 years) in camps has resulted in Government agreeing to conduct measles immunization with Vitamin A supplementation in 6 worst affected districts; ORS (20,000) and PuR (200,000) sachets made available to the Health department to work; 2,000 mosquito nets distributed in four areas through NGO partners to address malarial outbreak.
- Advocacy with PHED on improving sanitation and hygiene conditions in camps and affected villages; 100,000 PuR sachets were made available to PHED.
- Advocacy with PHED, P&RDD and Relief Office for provision of toilets in the affected villages and, assessment of sanitation and hygiene situation in camps (in collaboration with NGO networks working in select four flood-affected districts). Interaction with camp residents on sanitation and hygiene practices.

## ORISSA

### Situation

- Rains are continuing in the southern parts of the state. The Bansadhara river in the south and the Baitarani river in the north are flowing above danger levels. The two major rivers, the Subarnarekha and the Jalaka, which were also flowing over the danger marks, have now receded.
- Breaches in the embankments of rivers resulted in water overflowing and rushing into agricultural fields destroying standing crops and covering the cultivable land with sand. Road communication has been cut off between districts in the south of Orissa.
- Presently no village is flooded with water and drinking water sources have not been submerged. As per the latest report received, the situation is improving and no incidence of diarrhea has been reported till now from the north districts.
- Fears of outbreak of post submergence enteric diseases are looming large in flood affected areas especially as the flood water recedes from these areas.

### UNICEF Response

- In collaboration with UNDP and other UN agencies as well as the Inter-agency Group (IAG), UNICEF is closely monitoring the situation. Additional pre-positioning of material is ongoing. UNICEF is coordinating with the Health and RWSS department on coordinated distribution of pre-positioned supplies and planning for securing new supplies.
- UNICEF has established a database of NGOs in the districts where floods are expected and who could be called upon at a short notice to move into the field for mobilization of community on safe practices, personal hygiene and demonstrating correct methods for using supplies. In the coming days, UNICEF plans to initiate the capacity building of these NGOs in responding to the emerging needs if floods re occur.