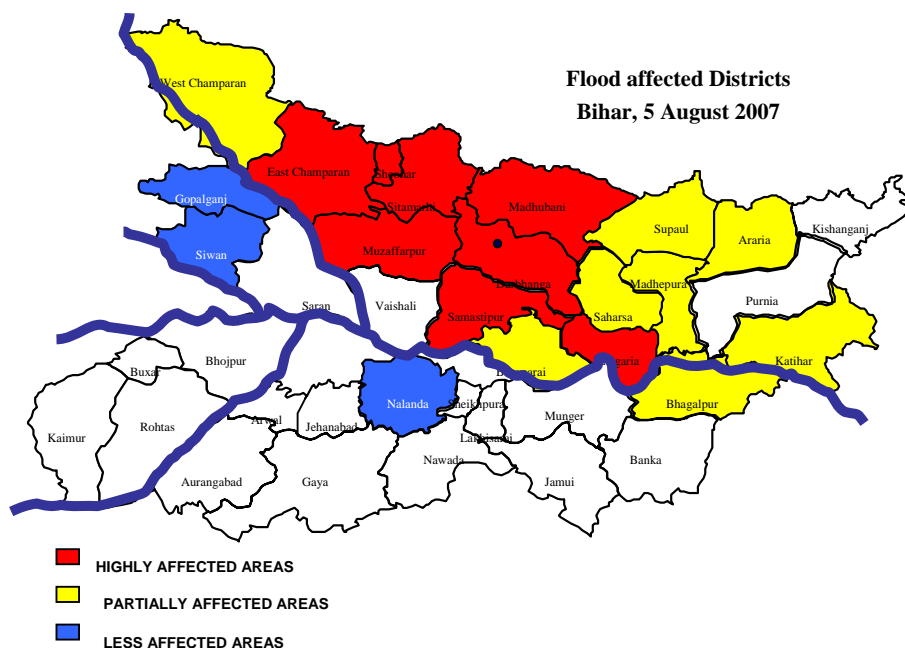


UNICEF SITUATION REPORT INDIA FLOODS - EXTERNAL 5 AUGUST 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- The flood situation in the two northern Indian states - Bihar and Uttar Pradesh – continues to be grim.
- In the last two days there have been negligible rains in Bihar or the catchment areas of the rivers causing the floods. However the stagnant water poses a serious threat to about 10 million people in North Bihar.
- In Uttar Pradesh, 20 of the 70 districts have been affected by floods. 2,365 villages and over 2.5 million people are reportedly affected of which 1,338 villages are completely marooned. 103 deaths have been officially confirmed.
- The flood situation in Assam in North-East India continues to be serious but under control. Brahmaputra and its nine tributaries continue to flow above danger level in some parts of the state in spite of the reduction in rainfall activity.
- UNICEF staff members have done rapid assessments of the affected areas. Apart from items already pre-positioned which have been provided to the flood-affected people, UNICEF is scaling-up the humanitarian response.
- Requests for UNICEF assistance have been received from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. UNICEF is taking urgent action to provide tarpaulin sheets, oral rehydration salts (ORS), PUR, Halazone tablets, bleaching powder and other supplies.
- The Inter Agency meetings are taking place in all three states on a regular basis. UNICEF is playing a lead role in coordination with NGOs, INGOs and government agencies.

BIHAR



Situation- Although there has not been significant rain in the catchment area of the northern districts of Bihar in the last 48 hours, the situation continues to worsen due to the continuous release of water from Nepal and also due to breaches in the embankments of rivers.



People escaping through inundated road in over-crowded boats

Since 25 July, about 10 million (including 1.5 million children 0-5 years) people in 162 blocks of 19 districts, out of the 38 in Bihar, have been affected by floods. These 19 districts are Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Katihar, Samastipur, Sheohar, Nalanda, Khagaria, Madhepura, Araria, Begusrai, Patna, Gopalganj, West Champaran and Bhagalpur. The worst affected among those are: Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, East Champaran, Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Sheohar, Khagaria.

Among the affected population, the most critical is the humanitarian situation among some 2 million of the displaced population in the worst-affected districts; some 300,000 children below five years of age are among them. While a large number of the displaced will be able to return to their homes (even if damaged) upon receding of water, there are fears that many thousands will remain homeless for weeks and possibly months to come. These vulnerable population groups, including children, may require longer-term rehabilitation support.

UNICEF RESPONSE

- Right after the first major flooding, UNICEF immediately conducted rapid assessments in the two most affected districts, i.e. East Champaran (27-29 July) and Muzaffarpur (31 July - 1 August). Information about the humanitarian situation in other districts has been received daily from NGO partners and UNICEF extenders, as well as government counterparts. Most urgently needed items have been shelter material (tarpaulin), food and safe drinking water, especially among the displaced population.
- At the very outset of the crisis, UNICEF used pre-positioned emergency items. These include: 5,000 plastic sheets to provide temporary shelters, 130,000 ORS sachets, thousands of halogen tablets for purifying water, temporary toilet sets, family hygiene kits, bleaching powder, disposal delivery kits, and other relief items. The distribution was arranged through UNICEF's NGO network. Over 40,000 families in some 1,000 selected villages in 7 districts, i.e. East Champaran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Samastipur, Madhubani and Khagaria, benefited from this intervention.
- In addition to distribution of pre-positioned items, in close collaboration with state/district authorities and NGO/CBO partners, UNICEF is rushing 20,000 polythene sheets to construct temporary shelters, 1.5 million halogen tablets to ensure safe drinking water, 50,000 PUR for the purification of water, 25,000 kilograms of



UNICEF tarpaulin sheets providing relief to families from incessant rains

bleaching powder, 200,000 ORS and 100,000 thousands IFA tablets to women, thousands of family hygiene kits to the most affected in all 19 flood affected districts. About 200,000 affected people, mostly women and children, will benefit from these supplies.

- The entire network of UNICEF in the state, consisting of about 500 district and block coordinators and 100 NGO partners have been mobilised to assist the district administration and UNICEF in the relief operation.
- UNICEF Patna identified a nodal officer (UNICEF staff) for each flood-affected district. This person is responsible for monitoring the situation, contact with District Administration and NGO partners, and UNICEF extenders. All UNICEF Patna staff have been mobilised for the emergency and will also be deployed for field work.
- UNICEF has placed Medical Focal Persons in 10 districts to assist respective district administrations in health and nutrition relief measures. On the 6th of August, UNICEF and the Government of Bihar will deploy 50 Medical Teams consisting of two doctors each and medicines to the flood affected districts. These teams will be involved in providing medical relief through health camps and will also conduct mass measles immunization drives for most vulnerable children up to 10 years of age.
- UNICEF is supporting the Government in setting up a system of surveillance in flood-affected areas for tracking and taking early action for prevention of outbreak of diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis and gastroenteritis.
- UNICEF, along with the state Disaster Management Cell, is also coordinating with international NGOs to ensure relief materials are reaching the affected and that medical teams are deployed.



Medical camps being organised to deal with flood related ailments and casualties

NGO Response

World Vision will provide plastic sheets, dry food, hygiene kits, utensils etc for 15,000 families in Darbhanga and Madhubani. Concern will provide food and tarpaulin sheets to 4,000 households in Darbhanga and Madhubani.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) will provide medical support in terms of doctors, para-medical staff and medicines in the most inaccessible and vulnerable districts. CASA will provide support with dry food, utensils, blankets and tarpaulin sheets in 4 districts – Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur to cover 4000 families.

Action Aid has indicated that they would provide relief items of food, shelter and health to 50,000 affected families in East Champaran, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi. Oxfam proposes to send relief supply to cover 15,000 families in 3 districts namely Darbhanga, Madhubani and Sitamarhi. Oxfam's support will be in respect of public health by providing hygiene kits, safe drinking water and ORS besides dry food and temporary shelters.

The supplies of most of the international NGOs are expected to start reaching the vulnerable people in Bihar as of the coming week.

UTTAR PRADESH (U.P.)

- Heavy rain in the catchment areas of the rivers which was continuing till yesterday has now receded. However, none of the rivers is flowing below the danger mark.
- Ghaghara and Sharada rivers are the major source of water in the worst-affected districts (Barabanki, Sravasti, Baharich, Basti, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, and Balrampur.) In some of the districts the breach in river embankments has caused outflow of waters.
- Over 180 relief camps and 155 temporary shelters were catering to over 150,000 populations as on 4 August 2007. More than 30,000 children are in the camps.
- The first inter-agency meeting to review the flood situation was held in Lucknow on 3 August 2007. UNICEF, NGO, INGO (CARE, Oxfam, CRS), and other partners attended the meeting. UNICEF office has been assigned the responsibility to coordinate the response of the INGO and other field NGOs.
- The Health and Family Welfare Department has reported adequacy of medicines across the state, and the government is taking steps to ensure regular supply of essential drugs in relief camps. The quality of drinking water continues to be worrisome.

UNICEF Response

- To provide shelter to families which are living in the open, 20,000 tarpaulin sheets are being procured and dispatched by the 7th of August to affected districts.
- UNICEF is arranging to provide the following items to the state government: Bleaching Powder – 250 bags of 25 kg each; Chlorine tablets – 500,000; ORS packets – 100,000
- Health risk assessment in relief camps will begin by the 10th of August. The services of doctors associated with Indian Medical Association (IMA) and medical colleges who are partnering with UNICEF on other projects are also being coordinated.
- UNICEF Lucknow has identified a Coordinator (UNICEF staff) for each flood affected district. This person is responsible for monitoring the situation, contact with District Administration and NGO partners, and UNICEF extenders.

ASSAM

- 26 out of 27 districts have been affected by floods in Assam. There have been 24 human casualties and 1,285 houses have been damaged. At present 116,964 people are living in 523 relief camps. Majority of the inmates in relief camps are women and children.
- No rainfall has fallen since 1 August. The water levels in the Brahmaputra and most of its tributaries are receding in Upper Assam and Guwahati. However, water is still above the 'warning' level in districts of Lower Assam and foothills of Bhutan. The Met Department has predicted increase in precipitation activity after 15 August.
- Inundated areas still have stagnant water which puts the population at risk of waterborne diseases. Moreover, given the concentration of population in the camps & temporary shelters, there is also the risk of measles epidemic.
- **Action by Government of Assam-** The state government has distributed food to the affected population. Health teams have been constituted in all affected districts to provide services at relief camps. Adequate supplies of medicines (including ORS) are available with the public authorities.

UNICEF Action to date

- Coordination with the government and partner NGOs on rapid response.
- Pre-positioning of supplies and fresh procurement has already taken place.

Provided		In Pipeline	
Mosquito Nets	2,000	Family hygiene kits	1,000
PUR sachets	14,400	PUR sachets	300,000
ORS	20,000	ORS	100,000
Water Testing H2S strips	4,000	Hypochlorite granules	6 mt tonnes
Family jerry cans (5 lts)	1,000	School-in-a Box	38 sets
Sanitary pans/traps	1,650		
Water distribution kits	700		
Recreation kits	6 sets		

Health

- Advocacy and follow-up with the Health Department on measles immunization for all children (9 months to 14 years) in camps and stock-piling of drugs, etc.
- In two districts (Dibrugarh & Barpeta where UNICEF has district presence), monitoring disease incidence underway with focus on relief camps.

Sanitation

- Advocacy on improving sanitation & hygiene conditions in camps and affected villages.
- In Dibrugarh district, 10 toilets constructed in two large camps through Rural Sanitary Mart (RSM) network.
- Assessment of sanitation and hygiene situation in camps (in collaboration with NGO networks working in select (4) flood-affected districts).
- Interaction with camp residents on sanitation and hygiene practices.

The situation in other states is normal.